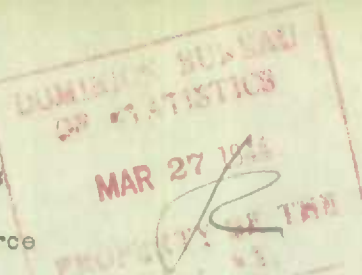


WEEKLY BULLETIN

Dominion Bureau of Statistics

Department of Trade and Commerce



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Business Operations in February

Productive operations in Canada, according to preliminary computation, recorded decline in February from the first month of the year. The index of the physical volume of business based upon mining, manufacturing, construction, electric power and distribution was at a considerably lower position.

A majority of the factors indicating the trend of mineral production showed decline. Gold receipts at the Mint were 238,746 fine ounces against 256,414 fine ounces. After seasonal adjustment, however, the shipments to the Mint showed an increase.

The index of the production of flour was at a lower level in the last month for which statistics are available. The general index for the milling industry receded from 214.7 to 195.7. Measured by the number of livestock slaughterings, the meat packing industry after seasonal adjustment was more active in February than in the preceding month. The index was 233.1 against 210.8. Considerable decline was shown in cheese production even after seasonal adjustment, while the index of the output of creamery butter rose from 117.7 to 130.2. A decline was shown in operations of the boot and shoe industry in the latest month for which statistics are available.

The cotton used by the textile industry recorded expansion in February, the total having been 14,798,000 pounds against 14,218,000. The index of the operations in the cotton industry rose from 138 to 142.9.

After seasonal adjustment the output of newsprint recorded a gain, the index moving up from 101.5 to 110. The production in February was 240,005 tons against 242,658 in the preceding month. Other factors indicating the movement of woodpulp and shingles recorded gains while a considerable decline was shown in planks and boards. Timber scaled in British Columbia receded to a considerable lower level in the last month for which statistics are available.

A majority of the available items indicating operations in the iron and steel group recorded an increase in February over the preceding month, due allowance having been made for seasonal tendencies. A further gain was shown in the operations of the non-ferrous metal industry. According to the latest available information, operations in chemical plants recorded minor recession.

New business obtained by the construction industry showed a considerable gain in February. Contracts awarded were \$16.2 million against \$8.8 million in the preceding month, the index advancing from 73.1 to 131.5.

Minor recession was recorded in retail sales and after the usual adjustment, marked decline was shown in wholesale sales. The domestic exports, excluding gold, amounted to \$227,168,000 in February compared with \$242,011,000 in the preceding month. A marked gain of slightly more than 35 per cent, however, was shown over February of last year, indicating the marked expansion in the export trade during the last twelve months.

Business Factors in February compared with
February 1943 and January 1944

	February 1944	February 1943	January 1944
Physical Volume of Business 1935-39=100	+	227.3	247.0
Gold Receipts at Mint Fine Ounces	238,746	323,100	256,414
Cheese, Factory Production Lb.	1,880,038	1,539,787	2,817,603
Butter Creamery Production Lb.	10,892,661	11,903,151	11,037,299
Newsprint Production Tons	240,005	221,807	242,658
Raw Cotton Consumption Lb.	14,797,505	16,126,534	14,217,550
Slaughterings ..			
Cattle and Calves	122,152	95,274	116,974
Sheep and Lambs	55,826	44,209	68,426
Hogs	933,940	514,906	941,037
Contracts Awarded	16,229,500	19,019,000	8,782,400
Domestic Exports	\$227,168	167,699	242,011
Bank Debits	\$4,208,032	3,711,843	4,512,473

+ According to preliminary calculations the index of the physical volume of business showed recession in February from the preceding month

Canada's Mineral Production in 1943

Canada's mineral production was valued at \$523,940,810 in 1943 as against \$566,-768,672 in 1942, the record year, a decrease of 7.5 per cent, according to preliminary figures. The 1943 valuation was lower than in any year since 1939. The decrease was caused principally by a large reduction in the output of gold.

Metals as a group were valued at \$356,783,418, a decrease of 10 per cent from the record output established in 1941 of \$395,346,581. Fuels, including coal, natural gas, crude petroleum and peat were valued at \$90,283,023, a drop of two per cent from 1942. Industrials group, which includes asbestos, gypsum, salt, feldspar, mica, and many others, totalled \$36,437,658, was slightly under the peak year of 1942. Clay products and structural materials aggregated \$40,436,711, a decline of 11.5 per cent from the all-time high established in 1942.

Gold production at \$140,512,334 was the lowest since 1936. The peak year of gold production was in 1941 when the output was valued at \$205,789,392. This was two years after the outbreak of the war. During these two years the British Commonwealth was alone in the struggle and gold was worth its weight in any country, and with it purchases could be made of those things which Canada and the Empire were in short supply, and gold producers had been urged to increase their output wherever possible.

As the war progressed and the needs of the Allied Nations for base metals and other minerals increased, the production of gold became relatively less important. When United States placed her gold mines in a non-essential category, the influence was immediately felt in Canada. Canadian gold mines soon found it difficult to obtain needed supplies from the United States. They were low also on the priority list in Canada to receive machinery and were placed in a low category with regard to labour. Employment in gold mines fell off from 32,000 in January 1941, to 27,000 in January, 1942, to 21,100 in January, 1943, and finally to 16,000 in December, 1943. Tonnage milled dropped from 1,580,557 in January 1941, to 895,742 tons in December, 1943.

Among the principal base metals, nickel production at 287,763,825 pounds reached an all-time high and was 17 per cent greater than the output for 1940, the first complete war year. Copper production at 578,981,467 pounds was four per cent less than in 1942; lead output at 444,354,772 pounds was 13 per cent below the record of 512,142,-562 pounds established in 1942, and zinc production at 608,568,434 pounds also reached a new high point and was five per cent above 1942.

Antimony metal was produced at Trail, British Columbia. Refined arsenic was made at the Deloro smelter; Beattie Gold Mines (Quebec) Ltd. began the production of refined arsenic by a wet process in December, 1943; there were also exports of crude arsenic from Quebec gold mines. Cadmium was produced at the Trail and Flin Flon smelters as a by-product in the refining of zinc. Chromite produced in the Eastern Townships of Quebec totalled 30,085 tons and was a direct war development. The Cobalt camp in Ontario produced concentrates for storage and for export. Cobalt metal was also made at the Deloro smelter from imported African ores.

Iron ore, produced by the Algoma Ore Properties in the Michipicoten district of Ontario, and at Bathurst, New Brunswick, totalled 641,294 tons. At Steep Rock Lake in western Ontario, the flow of the Seine River was diverted by an elaborate engineering project in order to expose for mining a large deposit of high-grade hematite. The magnesium plant at Hayley's Station near Renfrow, Ontario operated continuously throughout the year, having been brought into production in the fall of 1942. Magnesium output totalled 7,149,525 pounds. The Pinchi Lake mercury deposit has resulted in placing Canada independent regarding this metal which was formerly imported. There is also mercury for export. Production in 1943 totalled 1,709,000 pounds.

The outstanding development with regard to molybdenite was the bringing into production of the recently discovered molybdenite deposit in Pressiac Township in Quebec. Molybdenite concentrates were also produced at Quyon, Quebec and by the La Corne mine in Val d'Or, Quebec. Production totalled 813,268 tons of concentrated valued at \$583,538. Selenium and tellurium were produced at the Montreal East and Copper Cliff refineries. Selenium output totalled 380,000 pounds and tellurium 61,300 pounds.

Silver production totalled 17,230,939 fine ounces, a drop of 15 per cent from last year. Canada's principal source of silver is the Sullivan silver-lead-zinc mine at Kimberley, British Columbia. Substantial quantities are recovered also in the treatment of the copper-nickel ores of Ontario and the copper ores of Quebec and Ontario.

Tin is produced from the ores of the Sullivan mine in British Columbia; the output for 1943 is not being published. Tungsten concentrates are produced by some of Canada's gold mines. A mill was built at the Hollinger mine; hand sorted ore was sent to the Bureau of Mines, Ottawa, for treatment. Shoalite ores were also treated at Val d'Or, Quebec and at Little Long Lac in Ontario. The Emerald mine, near Nelson, British Columbia, was partially developed. A considerable quantity of concentrates was produced; none was shipped. Operations at this property ceased in September, 1943.

Coal production totalled 17,878,778 tons, a drop of five per cent from the 1942 output. Production was lower than in 1942 in every province except Saskatchewan. At the beginning of the year there was a serious labour shortage. Steps were taken to improve this situation and during the last half of the year the monthly output showed an upward trend. Natural gas output totalled 43,237,500 thousand cubic feet, a drop of five per cent from last year. Crude petroleum output totalled 9,958,000 barrels (which does not include production for the Northwest Territories). Alberta's production was less than in 1942 by five per cent. Alberta produces 99 per cent of the total Canadian output of oil.

Production of asbestos totalled 427,141 tons as against 439,459 tons in 1942. Gypsum output decreased 24 per cent to 429,966 tons. Salt production, of which over 50 per cent is used by producers in the manufacture of chemicals, reached an all-time high of 699,858 tons, an increase of seven per cent over last year.

Magnesian-dolomite, including brucite, was valued at \$1,298,775 as against \$1,059,374 in 1942. Sulphur production, which includes sulphur in pyrites shipped plus sulphur recovered from non-ferrous smelter gases, totalled 261,372 tons as compared with 303,714 tons in 1942. Owing to the further development of the Purdy Mica Mine near Mattawa, Ontario, the value of mica produced reached \$539,595 as compared with \$383,567 in 1942. Barite production practically all from Nova Scotia, rose to 24,474 tons as against 19,667 tons. Fluorspar output doubled. Peat moss rose in value to \$1,352,183 from \$1,069,372. Other important Canadian industrial minerals included diatomite, feldspar, graphite, iron oxides, mineral waters, nepheline-syenite, phosphate, quartz, silica brick, soapstone, sodium carbonate, sodium sulphate and talc.

In the structural materials group, clay products cement and stone had lower outputs than in 1942. Lime and sand and gravel were higher. The aggregate value of the group was \$40,436,711 as compared with \$45,729,807 in 1942.

Sales and Purchases of Securities Between Canada and Other Countries During 1943.

The movement of capital to Canada, arising from sales of outstanding securities to other countries, was at a record level in 1943. Net sales reported, of \$172 million, were much higher than in any of the ten years since 1933 for which statistics of these transactions have been recorded. The increased inflow of capital in 1943 was a continuation of a movement which first reached unusual proportions in 1942 when net sales were \$105.5 million.

The principal element in this inflow during the past two years has been the large volume of sales of Canadian bonds to the United States for which there has been a heavy demand in United States markets. Net sales of outstanding Canadian bonds to the United States amounted to about \$150 million in 1943 compared with about \$96 million in 1942 and \$19 million in 1941. As these figures exclude some direct sales in the United States not executed by agencies reporting transactions monthly, the total of all Canadian bonds sold in the United States was even heavier than this, particularly in 1943.

While the volume of international trading in Canadian stocks expanded sharply in 1943, with a larger balance of sales to the United States, the inflow of capital arising from trading in stocks in 1943 was still relatively light, amounting to about \$4 million. The liquidation of Canadian holdings of United States securities also expanded in 1943 amounting to about \$25 million compared with about \$10 million in 1942 and about \$17 million in 1941. Most of this liquidation was from sales of United States stocks.

Transactions with the United States constituted over 92 per cent of the total volume of the trade in 1943, compared with over 96 per cent in 1942. The largest part of these originated in the bond trade. Of the total net sales of securities to the United States in 1943 of \$180.9 million, net sales of Canadian bonds account for about \$150 millions.

Net purchases of securities from the United Kingdom reported amounted to \$10.6 million in 1943 compared with \$4.2 million in 1942. Purchases of Canadian stocks amounted to over \$3 million and repurchases of bonds, mainly provincials and municipals, totalled more than \$7 million in 1943. These figures do not include some direct purchases of non-Canadian securities in the London market not made through the agencies reporting these statistics. Also excluded are the official repatriations of Canadian securities held in the United Kingdom.

Claims for Unemployment Insurance Benefit

Claims for unemployment insurance benefit reached a new high point in January when 11,751 were received by the local offices of the Unemployment Insurance Commission as compared with 6,562 in the previous month and 4,637 in the corresponding month last year. The number of persons who signed the live unemployment register during the last week of January was 12,439 compared with 6,216 in the last week of December.

Compared with January a year ago, the number of claims increased in all provinces, but Ontario and Quebec recorded the greatest relative rise. The increase over the previous month was also striking, the highest proportional increases occurring in Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia.

During January this year, 4,570 persons received a total of \$131,037 for 20,637 unemployed days compared with 2,226 who were paid \$52,600 for 29,160 days during December and 2,381 who received \$70,650 for 37,663 days in January, 1943.

The average duration of the unemployment compensated was 15.2 days as compared with 13.1 days in December and 15.8 days in January last year. The average amount paid per beneficiary was \$28.67 in January compared with \$23.63 in December and \$29.67 last January. The average amount paid per compensated day of unemployment was \$1.88 in January, \$1.80 in December and \$1.88 in January, 1943.

Stocks of Canadian Wheat in Store

Stocks of Canadian wheat in store or in transit in North America at midnight on March 16 totalled 334,713,643 bushels, including 317,207,231 bushels in Canadian positions and 17,506,412 bushels in United States positions. On the corresponding date last year stocks totalled 439,600,707 bushels.

Deliveries of Wheat from the Farms

Farmers in the three Prairie Provinces marketed 6,047,782 bushels of wheat during the week ended March 16 as compared with 5,491,499 in the previous week. During the elapsed portion of the crop year which commenced August 1, 1943, deliveries totalled 185,061,424 bushels compared with 173,038,104 in the similar period of the previous crop year.

The following quantities of coarse grains were also delivered from the farms during the week ending March 16, totals for the previous week being in brackets: oats, 956,104 (1,050,649) bushels; barley, 456,397 (488,720); rye, 72,775 (71,576); flaxseed, 16,566 (19,695).

Production and Consumption of Poultry and Eggs in 1943

Continuing the succession of annual increases recorded since the outbreak of war the production of farm eggs in Canada in 1943 totalled 315,027,000 dozen as compared with 280,253,000 in 1942 and 221,737,000 in 1939. All provinces shared in the increases. The value was \$100,306,000 in 1943 compared with \$81,305,000 in 1942, an average of 31.8 cents per dozen compared with 29 cents in 1942. The number of laying hens was 32,725,000 in 1943 compared with 29,236,000 in 1942.

Poultry meat production in 1943 was increased to 263,432,000 pounds from 258,650,000 in 1942 and 211,938,000 in 1939. Farm marketings in 1943 amounted to 205,909,000 pounds compared with 203,164,000 in 1942 and 175,539,000 in 1939, while the farm - home consumption amounted to 57,523,000 pounds compared with 55,486,000 in 1942 and 36,449,000 in 1939.

The domestic disappearance of eggs per capita in Canada during 1943 amounted to 23.69 dozen compared with 22.05 in 1942, while that of poultry totalled 22.72 pounds compared with 23.52. Of the per capita disappearance of poultry meat, hens and chickens amounted to 19.46 pounds, turkeys 2.54, geese 0.505 and ducks 0.298 pounds.

Production of Sunflower Seed in Argentina

The production of sunflower seed has acquired considerable favour in a relatively short time with the Argentine farmer, according to a communication received by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics from its correspondent in Buenos Aires. When crushed, the seed yields an oil which is a reasonably good substitute for the olive oil which is a popular article in the diet in the Argentine household, but which, coming almost entirely from Italy and Spain, has practically ceased to be obtainable.

The first official estimate of the area planted to this crop in Argentina this season is placed at 3,306,200 acres. This is almost double that of last season, and exceeds the average of the last five years by 136 per cent. Last season the 663,000 metric tons of seed produced and crushed yielded 174,871 metric tons of oil. This represented 60 per cent of all oil seeds crushed in the country. Crop prospects this year are excellent, and private estimates place the probable volume at between 900,000 and 1,000,000 metric tons.

Production of Concentrated Milk in February

The output of concentrated milk products in February amounted to 10,679,413 pounds compared with 10,844,099 in the corresponding month last year. Increases were recorded in the production of condensed whole milk and skim milk powder, while evaporated whole milk declined. During the first two months of this year the production of concentrated milk increased to 23,503,564 pounds compared with 22,995,237 in the similar period of 1943.

Production of Gold in January

Canada's production of gold in January totalled 257,793 fine ounces compared with 262,882 in the previous month and 334,510 in the corresponding month last year. The value in January of this year was \$9,925,030.

Of the total output 211,659 fine ounces came from auriferous quartz mines and alluvial sources, and 46,134 fine ounces originated in base metal mines. Employees in auriferous quartz mines numbered 16,207 as compared with 16,038 in December and 21,129 in January, 1943.

Production of gold in January was as follows by areas, totals for the corresponding month last year being in brackets: Nova Scotia, 732 (525) fine ounces; Quebec, 70,498 (76,594); Ontario, 150,500 (200,960); Manitoba and Saskatchewan, 19,349 (26,215); British Columbia, 14,106 (23,802); Yukon, 826 (119); Northwest Territories, 1,741 (6,295).

Production of Leading Minerals in January

The January output of Canada's leading mineral products for which figures may be published was as follows, totals for the corresponding month last year being in brackets; cement, 176,173 (294,135) barrels; clay products, \$358,825 (\$356,837); coal, 1,620,669 (1,559,304) tons; gold, 257,793 (334,510) fine ounces; gypsum, 42,598 (27,439) tons; lime, 74,486 (70,754) tons; natural gas, 5,136,573,000 (5,476,191,000) cubic feet; commercial salt, 25,025 (23,613) tons; silver, 1,205,125 (1,605,991) fine ounces.

Building Permits in February

The value of building permits issued by municipalities reporting to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics in February was \$5,259,283 as compared with \$4,716,936 in the previous month and \$2,426,091 in the corresponding month of last year. Permits for new construction were valued at \$3,857,128, while additions, alterations and repairs totalled \$1,402,155. The percentage of new residential construction was 39.6.

Permits were issued for the construction of 531 new dwellings units in February, an increase of 135 over the corresponding month of last year. A large proportion of these were single dwellings. A sharp increase was recorded in the number of permits issued for conversions in February, the total being 265 as compared with 81. Of these, 173 were flats and apartments as compared with 34 a year ago.

Financing of Motor Vehicle Sales in February

Sales of 2,322 new and used motor vehicles were financed by Canadian finance companies during February to the extent of \$984,417, an increase of 25 per cent in number and 50 per cent in dollar volume over February a year ago. The February 1944 total included 117 new vehicles with a financed value of \$153,114.

Used vehicle financing recorded increases of 21 per cent in number and 34 per cent in dollar volume, 2,205 vehicles being financed for \$331,303 compared with 1,317 transactions involving \$618,836 in February, 1943. Used vehicle financing was 20 per cent lower in the Maritime Provinces, while the following percentage increases occurred in other sections of the country: Quebec, 82; Ontario, 24; Manitoba and Saskatchewan combined, 30; Alberta 10; and British Columbia, one.

Fur Farms in Canada in 1942

Fur farm revenues in Canada in 1942 amounted to \$7,156,017, an increase over 1941 of \$1,573,547 or 28 per cent. The pelt sales had a total value of \$6,739,121 and the sales of live fur-bearing animals a value of \$416,896, as compared with \$4,799,489 and \$782,921, respectively, in 1941. The sale of silver foxes accounted for 51 per cent of the revenues in 1942, mink 41 per cent, or a total for the two kinds combined of 92 per cent.

The number of animals retained on the farms at the end of 1942 was 204,400, comprising 33,429 silver foxes, 104,686 mink, 11,720 new type foxes, and various other kinds which totalled 4,645 animals. The number of silver foxes decreased from 1941 by nine per cent, mink by 31 per cent, while the new-type foxes increased by 80 per cent.

The number of fur farms in operation in the Dominion in 1942 was 7,334 as compared with 8,440 in 1941, while the value of property amounted to \$13,912,505 as compared with \$15,171,845.

Where Have We Been Getting our Cocoa?

The use of cocoa in Canada has been increasing in these war years. The rationing of tea and coffee has turned the attention of Canadian families to cocoa, which has not been rationed. It is a highly concentrated food of great nutritional value and is used in the household in other forms than as a beverage.

Canadian imports of cocoa beans, apart from cocoa butter and other cocoa preparations, amounted to 236,000 cwt. in 1938 and in 1941 had grown to 552,000 cwt. The 1942 imports were less at 427,000. The chief source of supply has been for a number of years the Gold Coast in British West Africa.

The story of cocoa somewhat parallels that of rubber. Cocoa is not indigenous to West Africa but was introduced to that territory comparatively recently from the equatorial New World as rubber was introduced to the East Indies.

The following were the 1942 imports in hundredweight of cocoa beans by principal countries of origin with the 1941 figures in brackets: Gold Coast 327,000 (312,000), Jamaica 49,000 (45,000), Nigeria 14,000 (93,000), Brazil 13,000 (7,000), Trinidad and Tobago 11,000 (39,000), Other British West Indies 2,000 (39,000), Ceylon 5,000 (10,000).

Production of Glass in Canada in 1942

Production of glass in Canada in 1942 was valued at \$24,700,000 as compared with \$21,100,000 in 1941 and \$14,418,000 in 1940. For statistical purposes this industry is divided into two sections, the pressed, blown and drawn glass section, and the cutting, bevelling and ornamental division.

Pressed, blown and drawn glass, including bottles, jars, sheet and window glass had a production value of \$17,694,924 as compared with \$14,577,333 in 1941, while in the

- cutting, bevelling and ornamental section of the industry the value of output was \$7,005,078 as compared with \$6,523,290 in 1941.

Revenue Freight Loadings in 1943

Revenue freight loaded at Canadian stations and received from foreign connections reached a new high point at 152,949,000 tons in 1943 as compared with 134,113,000 in the previous year. Loadings during December amounted to 11,722,000 tons compared with 11,258,000 in the same month of 1942.

Jewellery and Silverware in 1942

Manufacturers of jewellery, silverware, and other precious metal products reported the value of their 1942 production at \$24,250,000 an increase of four per cent over the 1941 valuation of \$23,314,000.

Car Loadings on Canadian Railways

Car loadings for the week ended March 11 amounted to 69,201 cars, practically the same as for the previous week, but 8,111 cars more than in the corresponding week last year.

In the eastern division total loadings increased from 39,834 cars in 1943 to 44,947, the majority of commodities showing increases. In the western division the increase was from 21,256 to 24,254 cars, grain increasing from 3,766 to 6,423 cars, live stock from 1,316 to 1,887 cars, while coal declined from 3,200 to 2,242 cars. Other groups showed smaller changes.

Cars of revenue freight loaded during February totalled 280,000 as compared with 281,000 in the previous month and 247,000 in the corresponding month last year.

Stocks of United States Grain in Canada

Stocks of United States grain in Canada on March 16 amounted to 1,762,825 bushels as compared with 3,283,681 on the corresponding date last year. Stocks of wheat increased to 1,121,612 bushels from nil a year ago, while corn decreased to 619,126 bushels from 3,260,425. Soybean stocks totalled 21,087 bushels.

Production of Asphalt Roofing

The production of asphalt shingles, siding and roofing in February amounted to 277,809 squares, and of felts and sheathing 3,196 tons, as compared with 236,436 squares of the former and 3,067 tons of the latter in the corresponding month of last year.

Reports Issued During the Week

1. The Grain Situation in Argentina (10 cents).
2. Canada's Leading Mineral Products, January (10 cents).
3. Production of Concentrated Milk, February (10 cents).
4. Financing of Motor Vehicle Sales, February (10 cents).
5. Canadian Grain Statistics (10 cents).
6. Building Permits, February (10 cents).
7. Monthly Traffic Report of Railways, December (10 cents).
8. Production of Asphalt Roofing, February (10 cents).
9. Sales of Asphalt Roofing, February (10 cents).
10. Gold Production in Canada, January (10 cents).
11. Racial Origin by Conjugal Condition, Age, Etc., Ontario, 1941 (10 cents).
12. Advance Report on the Fur Farms of Canada, 1942 (10 cents).
13. Production of Poultry and Eggs, 1943 (10 cents).
14. Preliminary Report on the Mineral Production of Canada, 1943 (25 cents).
15. The Glass Industry in Canada, 1942 (15 cents).
16. The White Metal Products Industry, 1942 (25 cents).
17. The Jewellery and Silverware Industry, 1942 (25 cents).
18. Railway Revenue Freight Loadings, February (10 cents).
19. Car loadings on Canadian Railways (10 cents).
20. Statistical Report on the Operation of the Unemployment Insurance Act, January (10 cents).
21. Sales and Purchases of Securities Between Canada and Other Countries, 1943 (10 cents).



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