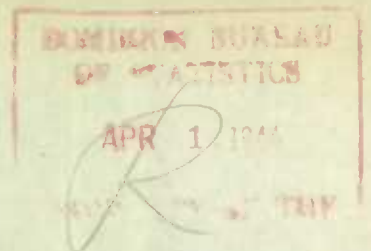


WEEKLY BULLETIN

Dominion Bureau of Statistics

Department of Trade and Commerce



Vol. XII - No. 13

Ottawa, Saturday, April 1, 1944

Price \$1.00 per year

Gainfully Occupied in British Columbia in 1941

The gainfully occupied in British Columbia at the census date in 1941 totalled 343,158, representing almost 42 per cent of the total population of the province. The total included 287,932 males and 55,226 females, together with those in the Armed Forces. The total population in 1941 was 817,861, consisting of 435,031 males and 382,830 females. Almost 82 per cent of the males and over 18 per cent of the females, 14 years of age and over, were gainfully occupied. Figures quoted in the following paragraphs do not include persons on Active Service.

The 10 leading male occupations in British Columbia accounted for only 48.79 per cent of the gainfully occupied male population in this province. Ranked according to their relative importance they are: labourers (not in agriculture, fishing, logging, or mining) 24,880 or 9.62 per cent, farmers and stock raisers 23,526 or 9.09 per cent, farm labourers 16,232 or 6.27 per cent, lumbermen 13,290 or 5.14 per cent, carpenters 9,168 or 3.54 per cent, owners and managers (retail trade) 8,619 or 3.33 per cent, miners and millmen 8,468 or 3.27 per cent, office clerks 7,591 or 2.93 per cent, fishermen 7,581 or 2.93 per cent, and truck drivers 6,871 or 2.66 per cent.

Females gainfully occupied in the 10 leading female occupations represented 68.38 per cent of the total gainfully females in the province. The order of the leading female occupations, found mainly in the service groups, is as follows: domestic servants 7,833 or 14.21 per cent, stenographers and typists 6,574 or 11.92 per cent, salespersons in stores 5,120 or 9.29 per cent, housekeepers and matrons 3,688 or 6.69 per cent, school teachers 3,283 or 5.95 per cent, waitresses 2,741 or 4.97 per cent, graduate nurses 2,738 or 4.97 per cent, office clerks 2,352 or 4.27 per cent, lodging house keepers 1,738 or 3.15 per cent, and bookkeepers and cashiers 1,632 or 2.96 per cent.

Among young persons in gainful occupations only 29.77 per cent of the males 14 to 17 years of age were employed as farm labourers while 39.62 per cent of the females in the same age group were employed as domestic servants. In the older ages farmers and stock raisers accounted for 24.72 per cent of all gainfully occupied males in the age group 65 years and over. Personal service occupations, chiefly housekeepers and matrons, domestic servants, and lodging house keepers accounted for 54.71 per cent of the females in this age group.

Of the gainfully occupied females 41,298 or 74.91 per cent were single. However, in the transportation, professional service, and clerical groups about 85 per cent or slightly over of the total gainfully employed women were single. There were 6,221 married and 4,691 widowed females gainfully employed at the 1941 Census. Nearly 49 per cent of the married women and about 51 per cent of the widows were engaged in service occupations, mainly as housekeepers and matrons, domestic servants, and lodging house keepers.

The census figures showed that 60,680 or 23.45 per cent of the gainfully occupied males were employers and own accounts, 192,916 or 74.57 per cent were employed as wage-earners, and 5,127 or 1.98 per cent worked for no pay. Nearly 39 per cent of the gainfully occupied male employers and own accounts were farmers and stock raisers while 86 per cent of the no pay workers were farmers' sons working on their fathers' farms. Only 6,100 or 11.06 per cent of the females were reported as employers and own accounts, while 46,223 or 83.84 per cent were employed as wage-earners, and 2,808 or 5.09 per cent as no pay workers.

Only 20 per cent of the gainfully occupied males of British racial stock were engaged in primary occupations while the percentage of the European races, except Jewish, similarly occupied varied between 26 per cent and 56 per cent. Over 52 per cent of the gainfully employed males of Jewish origin were found in trade occupations, chiefly as merchants and salespersons in stores. Nearly 91 per cent of the Indians were engaged in primary occupations, mainly as farmers, farm labourers, and hunters and trappers. There were 14,096 gainfully occupied Chinese males and 7,618 gainfully occupied Japanese males in British Columbia. Of the Chinese nearly 23 per cent were in agricultural occupations and 29 per cent in personal service occupations, principally, as restaurant owners, cooks, laundrymen and waiters. Over 48 per cent of the gainfully occupied Japanese males were in primary occupations, chiefly, farmers, farm labourers, fishermen and lumbermen.



### February Employment Situation

Industrial employment was at a lower level at February 1, the 14,311 firms furnishing data to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics reporting a combined working force of 1,843,389 as compared with 1,869,151 at January 1. This decline of 25,762 persons, or 1.4 per cent, reduced the index number of employment on the base 1926=100 from 185.7 at January 1 to 183.1.

The resumption of normal operations, interrupted in many establishments over the holiday season brought about a substantial increase in the weekly payrolls reported at the beginning of February. These aggregated \$58,631,994 as compared with \$55,496,961 at January 1. The gain was 5.5 per cent. The per capita average, which had declined from \$31.61 at December 1 to \$29.69 at January 1, rose to \$31.75--the highest in the record.

Improvement was indicated in manufacturing at the beginning of February, but the gain of 4,778 persons was the smallest at midwinter in any year since 1933. The increase over January 1 took place wholly in the manufacture of non-durable goods, the largest being in textile and rubber factories. On the other hand, the production of heavy manufactured goods showed a further decline. Non-ferrous metal plants recorded the most pronounced reductions, but the trend was also downward in the iron and steel and electrical apparatus industries.

The non-manufacturing divisions, on the whole, afforded less employment at February 1, when the curtailment was mainly of a seasonal character. There were losses of 4,245 persons in transportation, 18,781 in construction and 12,704 in trade. Communications reported no general change, while logging, mining and services showed greater activity. The gains of 3,295 in logging and 1,536 in mining were contra-seasonal.

---

### Canada's External Trade in February

Canada's external trade, excluding gold, continues to expand and in February the value rose to \$367,638,000 from \$283,891,000 in the corresponding month last year, an increase of almost \$83,747,000. During the first two months of this year the value was \$739,996,000 compared with \$589,725,000 in the similar period of 1943, an increase of \$150,271,000.

Merchandise exports in February were valued at \$227,168,000 as compared with \$167,699,000 in February, 1943, while the imports amounted to \$138,370,000 compared with \$114,419,000. Exports of foreign commodities were valued at \$2,099,000 compared with \$1,772,000 in February a year ago.

The balance of commodity trade was favourable to Canada in February to the extent of \$90,897,000 as compared with \$55,053,000 in February, 1943. In addition, the net exports of non-monetary gold amounted to \$8,100,000 compared with \$12,800,000. Duties collected in February totalled \$15,149,000 compared with \$9,357,000.

---

### February Imports from Leading Countries

Canada's merchandise imports were valued at \$138,370,000 in February as compared with \$114,419,000 in the corresponding month last year. The United States accounted for the bulk of the trade, the total from that country amounting to \$115,789,000 as compared with \$94,175,000 last year. Imports from the United Kingdom totalled \$6,698,000 compared with \$9,589,000, from British India \$2,458,000 compared with \$912,000, Jamaica \$1,327,000 compared with \$544,000, New Zealand \$1,482,000 compared with \$776,000, Argentina \$1,125,000 compared with \$242,000, Brazil \$944,000 compared with \$275,000, Mexico \$1,012,000 compared with \$862,000 and Venezuela \$903,000 compared with \$1,039,000.

---

### Production of Iron and Steel in February

The Canadian production of pig iron in February was increased to 141,878 net tons from 138,240 in the corresponding month of last year, thus increasing the output for the first two months of the year to 274,006 net tons from 254,567 in the like period of 1943.

Production of steel ingots and steel castings in February declined to 229,852 net tons from 245,588 in February of last year, while the combined total for January and February increased to 472,038 net tons from 452,596 in the same period of 1943. The February output included 216,567 net tons of ingots and 13,285 tons of castings.



The February production of ferro alloys amounted to 14,720 net tons as compared with 16,495 in the previous month and 17,811 in February of last year.

### Visible Supply of Wheat

Stocks of Canadian wheat in store or in transit in North America at midnight on March 23 totalled 334,532,244 bushels, including 318,430,905 bushels in Canadian positions and 16,101,339 in United States positions. On the corresponding date last year stocks amounted to 435,433,439 bushels.

### Farmers' Marketings of Wheat and Coarse Grains

Farmers in western Canada marked 6,103,502 bushels of wheat during the week ended March 23 as compared with 6,219,006 in the previous week, while deliveries during the elapsed portion of the crop year which commenced August 1, 1943, amounted to 191,336,152 bushels compared with 175,005,094 in the similar period of the previous crop year.

The following quantities of coarse grains were delivered from farms in the three Prairie Provinces during the week ending March 23, totals for the previous week being in brackets: oats, 800,697 (1,095,950) bushels; barley, 601,119 (507,229); rye, 72,898 (74,816); flaxseed, 15,984 (16,986).

### World Wheat Situation

Military developments in Europe and weather conditions in North America appear at the moment as major factors in the 1944 world wheat situation. The first will determine the extent to which the Nazis will lose control of the European wheat crop which, for the second year in succession, looks promising, while the second will have an important bearing on the wheat supply position in Canada and the United States.

When the Germans swept through the low Countries and France in 1940 and invaded Russia in 1941, they gained control of millions of acres of wheat land just about harvest time and for the past four years the disposition of most of the European wheat crops has been in their hands. The operation is now in reverse, at least on the Russian side of the European battle front. The Red Army is not only driving the invader out of Russia but is threatening satellite Balkan countries where a substantial wheat harvest is in the making.

The Balkan or Danubian countries produce a lot of wheat and other cereal grains, and in pre-war days were substantial net exporters of wheat. Official figures for the war years are not available, but unofficial calculations indicate that in the past four years the production of wheat in Roumania, Hungary, Bulgaria and Yugoslavia totalled 1,265,000,000 bushels, or an average of 316,250,000 bushels annually. In 1939 this group produced 454,000,000 bushels of wheat.

Manpower and fertilizer shortages have contributed to the smaller wartime production, but the people in those countries have been strictly rationed on bread supplies and the Germans have undoubtedly benefited greatly from wheat production there. Loss of even part of the 1944 wheat harvest, if coupled with losses resulting from an invasion of western Europe, would almost certainly affect German food supplies, and perhaps quite seriously.

In North America, the enemy facing the wheat crop is weather. Moisture supplies are deficient in the large wheat producing areas of Canada and the United States, and only generous and timely spring and summer rains can produce conditions favourable for good yields in 1944. Both countries still have a substantial supply of wheat on hand, but the rate of disappearance is high, particularly in the United States, and the combined carry-over at the end of July is likely to be at least 500,000,000 bushels smaller than it was on July 31, 1943.

United States farmers have increased their acreage for the 1944 harvest of winter wheat and the spring wheat growers have indicated their intention also to expand acreage this year, but this can be effective on the production side only if weather condition are favourable. The winter wheat was put into a very dry seedbed last fall, but moisture conditions have since improved and the crop is emerging from the dormant stage. Spring wheat planting will commence in April and, if acreage intentions are carried out, the United States will have a seeded acreage of approximately 67,000,000 acres, the official objective set for this year.



Wheat acreage intentions of Canadian Farmers will not be known until May 9, but the official objective calls for no change from the 17,500,000 acres planted in 1943. The Prairie Provinces indicate a poor moisture condition but there is ample time for spring rains to change the outlook for the better. The winter has been comparatively mild and the snowfall less than usual, so that activity on the land is expected to develop earlier than in 1943.

Argentine and Australian farmers will soon be sowing their wheat for harvest next November-December and reports from both countries contain much to suggest expansion of acreage. Exports of wheat and flour from the southern hemisphere countries have been increasing in volume during recent months, and while both Australia and Argentina have large surpluses on hand there appears to be optimism about the disposition of these surpluses.

It is reported that Australia recently sold 40,000,000 bushels of wheat and flour to the British Ministry of Food. This sale appears to be separate from the previously announced contract for 500,000 tons of flour. Argentine exporters have also been selling in larger volume, chiefly to Brazil, but recently sales have been made also to Portugal, and old contracts with Spain are being completed.

Both Spain and Portugal are facing up to a second successive year of poor crop prospects, and it is now reported that Portugal will institute bread rationing for the first time since the war began. The Portuguese are not large per capita consumers of bread, actually they are among the smallest bread eaters in Europe, but production plus imports in the past year has been insufficient to meet even the limited requirements of the country. It is true, of course, that Portugal has had to feed more than her own people in the past four years.

Outside the European zone, the position in India is attracting attention. It is not expected that the serious food situation of last year will recur, but the wheat crop prospects as presently indicated are below those of 1943. The harvest has commenced in the earlier districts and will soon be widespread, but production in the important Punjab is reported to be 32,000,000 bushels less than a year ago. Offsetting the smaller wheat harvest prospects is the larger rice crop and the steps taken by the authorities to bring about better distribution of supplies.

Australian and Canadian wheat have been shipped to India in recent months and imports are likely to continue to the extent of setting up an emergency stock in case shortages develop in some areas. Bengal suffered chiefly in last year's shortage of food but steps were taken to ban exports from the province and to import from other areas. Price control and rationing were also put into effect.

In North Africa, the new wheat harvest is expected to meet local requirements and probably furnish a surplus for export. Any surplus could be shipped to Sicily and southern Italy and this would save shipping space that had to be used last year to supply those areas from America. Harvest time in Tunisia and Algeria is usually in May, but starts earlier in Morocco.

During the five years before the war, these North African colonies of the French Empire produced more than 70,000,000 bushels of wheat between them on the average, and after meeting their own requirements shipped large quantities to continental France. Last year's crop was all needed in Africa. Other Mediterranean areas previously deficient in native wheat, chiefly Egypt and Turkey, have been getting along for some time now without large imports and crop prospects for this year are reported to be favourable.

---

#### Cattle, Sheep and Poultry on Farms

The number of cattle on farms at December 1, 1943, was 9,506,200, an increase of 672,500, head or 7.6 per cent over the corresponding total last year. The increase was common to all provinces although there was very little change in Ontario. Saskatchewan had the greatest increase. The Dominion total of milk cows was 3,953,000 as compared with 3,832,400 a year ago.

An increase of 250,300 head, or 10.1 per cent occurred in the number of sheep on farms at December 1, when the total was 2,733,000. The increase was common to all provinces except British Columbia and was particularly marked in the case of Saskatchewan. The tendency towards increased numbers of sheep on farms has been in evidence for several years, and as the December 1 total represents a high proportion of breeding stock it may be expected that the increase will continue into 1944.



The numbers of poultry on farms at December 1 increased sharply over those of the previous year. In the case of hens and chickens the increase for the country as a whole amounted to 7,731,200 birds or 15.5 per cent, giving a total of 57,512,500 on hand. The increase was greater than 10 per cent in all the provinces and exceeded 20 per cent in Saskatchewan and in Nova Scotia. Numbers of turkeys on farms amounted to 3,077,300, an increase of 36,800 over 1942.

Numbers of cattle on farms were as follows by provinces, totals for December 1, 1942, being in brackets: Prince Edward Island, 96,700 (91,900); Nova Scotia, 213,500 (197,600); New Brunswick, 199,200 (185,800); Quebec, 1,765,200 (1,633,200); Ontario, 2,786,300 (2,778,000); Manitoba, 875,000 (800,200); Saskatchewan, 1,614,000 (1,364,200); Alberta, 1,619,900 (1,462,500); British Columbia, 336,400 (320,300).

---

#### Report on the Grain Trade of Canada

A summary of the production of the principal grain crops in 1941 and their distribution during the crop year 1941-1942 is contained in the annual report of the Grain Trade of Canada issued by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Statistics relating to the movement of grain on the Great Lakes are included up to the close of navigation in December, 1942. The flour milling industry in Canada is dealt with at some length. Statistics showing the quantities of wheat milled each year during a 22-year period and other data relating to the industry as a whole are tabulated. The present release is the 25th in the series compiled by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics in collaboration with the Statistics Branch of the Board of Grain Commissioners for Canada.

---

#### Output of Electric Power in February

Central electric stations produced 3,298,017,000 kilowatt hours in February as compared with 2,959,268,000 in the corresponding month last year. On a daily basis this was an average of 113,725,000 kilowatt hours, which was exceeded only by the January 1944 average of 113,834,000 kilowatt hours.

Consumption of primary power in February amounted to 2,969,275,000 kilowatt hours, or a daily average of 102,389,000. This was slightly below the daily averages of November, December and January, but the index number, adjusted for seasonal variations, rose to a new high at 211.6.

Consumption of secondary power increased from 126,124,000 kilowatt hours in February last year to 146,975,000. Exports to the United States declined from 186,774,000 kilowatt hours in 1943 to 181,767,000.

---

#### Cheques Cashed Against Individual Accounts in February

The amount of cheques cashed against individual accounts rose 13.4 per cent in February over the corresponding month of last year. The total was \$4,208,000,000 against \$3,712,000,000 one year ago. As wholesale and retail prices were only slightly above the levels of last year, the major portion of the advance in cheque payments was due to the acceleration in productive activity. The gain in the index of the physical volume of business was about nine per cent and production in manufacturing plants rose to about the same extent.

Advances were recorded in each of the five economic areas, the increase in the Prairie Provinces having been the most outstanding. Cheques cashed in the Maritime Provinces were \$87,500,000 against \$77,700,000, a gain of 12.6 per cent. The increases were general in each of the three clearing centres, Halifax, Moncton and Saint John. Debits in Montreal rose from \$981,000,000 to \$1,085,000,000, the aggregate for the province having been 2.8 per cent greater.

Twelve of the fourteen centres in Ontario recorded gains. The total for the province was \$1,881,000,000 against \$1,751,000,000, an increase of 7.4 per cent. Each of the ten centres in the Prairie Provinces recorded gains, most of them of major proportions. The aggregate for the three provinces was \$747,900,000 against \$486,400,000, an increase of 53.8 per cent. Each of the three centres in British Columbia recorded gains, the total for Vancouver having been \$238,000,000 against \$180,000,000. The increase in the total for the province was 28.4 per cent, the total having been \$285,400,000.

---



## Indexes of Country General Store Sales in February

An average increase of 12 per cent in country general store sales was registered in February as compared with the corresponding month in 1943, the index number on the base 1935-1939=100 advancing to 122.9 from 119.1. All regions of the country reported increases ranging from four per cent for Manitoba and Northern Alberta to 21 per cent for southern Saskatchewan. Percentage sales increases for other sections of the Dominion were: Ontario and Alberta, eight; British Columbia, 12; Quebec, 13; Saskatchewan, 15; and the Maritime Provinces, 18.

## Railway Operations During 1943

Gross revenue of Canadian railways for the year 1943 amounted to \$771,658,732. This was an increase over 1942 of \$115,654,460 or 17.6 per cent, and over 1939 of \$408,332,908 or 112 per cent. It was 39 per cent greater than the peacetime peak of 1928 and was almost three times the revenue of 1933, the subsequent low point. Operating expenses increased from \$480,703,982 in 1942 to \$554,289,701, excluding the appropriations for pensions charged to general operating expenses by the Canadian National Railways from March to December.

Freight revenue was greater than in 1942 by \$67,021,682 or by 13.5 per cent for an increase in ten miles of 14.1 per cent. Passenger revenue increased by \$31,968,630 or by 35.2 per cent, for an increase in passenger miles of 30.5 per cent over 1942 traffic. Freight train loading increased from 1,673 to 1,723 gross ton miles per train mile, or by three per cent over 1942, but revenue ton miles were increased from 788 to 842 or by 6.9 per cent, and the average load per car, weighted by miles hauled, increased from 30.6 to 32.7 tons.

The average number of employees increased from 148,369 in 1942 to 160,095 or by 7.9 per cent, and the total pay roll increased from \$278,330,711 to \$309,929,401 or by 11.4 per cent. The peak railway employment was in 1928 when 176,842 employees were reported.

Operating revenues of Canadian lines of the Canadian National Railways reached a new high record in 1943 of \$591,084,435 compared with \$332,199,961 in 1942, an increase of \$58,884,474 or 17.7 per cent. United States lines also showed an increase of \$6,076,936 or 14 per cent, bringing the system revenue to \$440,615,954 as compared with \$375,654,544 in 1942.

Operating expenses of Canadian lines increased from \$256,774,568 in 1942 to \$288,335,053 or by \$31,560,485 or 12.3 per cent, while expenses of the United States lines rose from \$32,224,107 to \$36,140,616, increasing the system total from \$288,998,675 in 1942 to \$324,475,669 in 1943. System net operating revenue increased from \$86,655,869 to \$116,140,285, and the operating income from \$74,930,222 to \$100,702,938.

Operating revenues of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company in 1943 amounted to \$299,323,042, a new high record. This was \$40,234,587 greater than in 1942 when revenues totalled \$258,788,455. Operating expenses increased by \$32,592,157 or 17.7 per cent. Net operating revenue increased from \$75,033,033 to \$82,675,463, and the operating income rose from \$43,187,689 to \$49,211,567.

## Stocks of United States Grain in Canada

Stocks of United States grain in Canada on March 23 amounted to 1,632,295 bushels as compared with 3,185,164 on the corresponding date last year. Wheat stocks increased to 1,007,987 bushels from nil, while corn decreased to 638,631 bushels from 3,161,638.

## Reports Issued During the Week

1. Monthly Indexes of Country General Store Sales, February (10 cents).
2. Canadian Grain Statistics - Weekly (10 cents).
3. Prices and Price Indexes, February (10 cents).
4. Car Loadings on Canadian Railways (10 cents).
5. Flour and Feed Milling Industry, 1942 (25 cents).
6. Grain Trade of Canada, 1941-42 (50 cents).
7. The Employment Situation, February 1 (10 cents).
8. Trade of Canada, February (10 cents).
9. Imports by Principal Countries, February (10 cents).
10. Gainfully Occupied in British Columbia, 1941 (10 cents).
11. Production of Iron and Steel, February (10 cents).
12. Operating Revenues, Expenses and Statistics of Railways, 1943 (10 cents).
13. Operating Revenues, Expenses and Statistics of Railways, December (10 cents).
14. Central Electric Stations, February (10 cents).
15. Cheques Cashed Against Individual Accounts, February (10 cents).
16. Live Stock Survey, December 1, 1943 (10 cents).
17. Monthly Review of the Wheat Situation (10 cents).

STATISTICS CANADA LIBRARY  
BIBLIOTHEQUE STATISTIQUE CANADA



1010729734