

## WEEKLY BULLETIN

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Department of Trade and Commerce



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Business Betterment in March

Productive operations in Canada recorded betterment in March over the preceding month. The index of the physical volume of business showed, according to preliminary calculations, a slight gain over the second month of the year. Recession in employment in iron and steel and non-ferrous metal plants had a bearing on the trend of war production in the latest month for which statistics are available. The output of a number of plants engaged in production for civilian purposes showed important advances.

A majority of the factors indicating the trend of mineral production recorded gains in the latest month. Gold receipts at the Mint amounted to 266,365 fine ounces against 238,746 in February. An important gain was recorded in the operations of the flour milling industry in the latest month. The index of inspected slaughterings, indicating conditions in the meat packing industry, rose from 233.1 to 235.7.

Slaughterings of hogs and sheep recorded gains after seasonal adjustment, while minor recession was shown in cattle. The gain in the production of dairy products was considerably greater than normal for the season. The output of cheese was 3,085,000 pounds against 1,880,000 in February, the index rising from 148 to 196. Cotton consumed by the textile industry amounted to 16.3 million pounds against 13.4 million in the preceding month.

Considerable gain was recorded in the export of wood pulp, planks and boards in March as compared with the preceding month. The gain in newsprint production was less than normal for the season, the total having been 252,092 tons against 240,005. The construction industry was more active in March, the total contracts awarded having been \$31.0 million against \$16.2 million in February.

Indexes of retail and wholesale sales recorded increases in the latest month for which statistics are available. The index for retail sales after seasonal adjustments and for changes in the cost of living rose from 140.3 to 145.1, while wholesale sales rose from 107.2 to 117.6. The domestic export trade in March was \$282.7 million compared with \$227.2 million in the preceding month and \$205.2 million in the same month last year. The aggregate for the first quarter was \$751.9 million against \$550.2 million in the same period of 1943.

The gross earnings of the Canadian Pacific Railway from the beginning of the year to April 14 were \$86.8 million compared with \$73.9 million in the same period of 1943, a gain of 17.5 per cent.

Business Indicators for March, 1944 compared with February and March, 1943.

		March, 1944	March, 1943	February, 1944
Physical Volume of Business ....	1935-39=100	(x)	231.7	241.6
Cost of Living .....	1935-39=100	119.0	117.2	118.9
Factory Cheese Production .....	pounds	3,084,539	2,693,909	1,880,000
Creamery Butter Production .....	pounds	14,022,010	15,594,614	10,892,661
Newsprint Production .....	tons	252,092	246,855	240,005
Contracts Awarded .....	\$	31,019,300	11,110,600	16,229,500
Exports, domestic .....	\$ 000	282,682	205,170	227,168
Raw Cotton Consumption .....	lb.	16,303,542	18,186,405	13,417,530
Gold Receipts at Mint .....	fine oz.	266,365	279,282	238,746
Inspected Slaughterings -				
Cattle and calves .....	No.	156,995	132,752	122,152
Sheep and lambs .....	No.	74,660	49,862	55,826
Hogs .....	No.	932,306	554,461	933,940
Woodpulp exports .....	cwt.	2,353,229	2,482,314	2,137,541
Shingles exported .....	squares	130,073	173,241	114,631
Canned salmon exports .....	cwt.	9,637	61,692	39,094
Bank Debits .....	\$ 000	4,773,179	4,011,883	4,208,032

(x) The index of the physical volume of business according to preliminary calculations showed increase over the preceding month.



### Canada's Domestic Exports in March

A further increase was recorded in the value of Canada's merchandise export trade in March, the total being \$282,682,000 as compared with \$227,168,000 in the previous month and \$205,170,000 in the corresponding month of last year. The aggregate for the first quarter of this year was \$751,862,000 as compared with \$550,194,000 in the similar period of last year.

The flow of Canadian supplies to the United Kingdom was augmented in March, the value totalling \$110,362,000 as compared with \$64,965,000 in the same month of last year, while the total for the first three months of this year was \$283,358,000 compared with \$159,483,000 in the corresponding period of last year. Shipments to the United States in March were valued at \$97,362,000 compared with \$88,094,000 a year ago, the three-month total standing at \$274,336,000 compared with \$260,357,000.

Canadian goods to the value of \$25,350,000 were shipped to Italy during March, increasing the three-month total to \$38,179,000. Shipments to China were valued at \$3,611,000, while the three-month total amounted to \$6,662,000 against nil a year ago. Exports to British India were valued at \$6,939,000 in March compared with \$13,201,000 in March 1943, to British South Africa \$2,703,000 compared with \$3,946,000, Newfoundland \$2,829,000 compared with \$2,888,000, Australia \$4,197,000 compared with \$5,022,000, Egypt \$9,565,000 compared with \$10,809,000, and Russia \$2,968,000 compared with \$1,422,000.

Features of the export trade in March were the heavily increased shipments of wheat, meats, motor vehicles and parts and newsprint paper. Wheat exports rose to \$20,458,000 from \$10,660,000 in March a year ago, meats to \$19,147,000 from \$11,745,000, motor vehicles and parts to \$47,457,000 from \$24,887,000, and newsprint paper to \$12,523,000 from \$11,664,000.

Wheat flour exports were valued at \$7,786,000 as compared with \$6,183,000 in March 1943, planks and boards \$5,951,000 compared with \$5,670,000, wood pulp \$8,433,000 compared with \$8,066,000, chemicals \$7,973,000 compared with \$7,829,000, fishery products \$3,858,000 compared with \$3,995,000.

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### Sales and Purchases of Securities Between Canada and Other Countries during January

The import of capital into Canada arising from the net sales of securities to other countries was slightly less in January than in immediately preceding months, the total being \$6,100,000 compared with \$7,800,000 in December and \$6,400,000 in November. In January, 1943, the total was \$11,300,000. Net sales of \$7,800,000 to the United States in January were partly offset by repurchases of securities from the United Kingdom.

Sales of securities to all countries in January totalled \$16,600,000 as compared with \$17,000,000 in December and \$19,200,000 in January of last year. Purchases from other countries amounted to \$10,500,000 compared with \$9,200,000 in the previous month and \$7,900,000 in the corresponding month of last year. Sales to the United States in January were valued at \$15,700,000, while purchases from that country totalled \$7,900,000.

The principal source of the import of capital continued to be the trade in Canadian bonds with the United States, net sales of which amounted to \$6,300,000. Each group of Canadian bonds was sold on balance and there was less concentration of the sales in the Dominion and Dominion guaranteed groups than in former months. While net sales of Canadian stocks were relatively light the sales of United States stocks continues to be substantial, amounting to \$2,000,000.

Net repurchases from the United Kingdom amounted to \$2,100,000. Purchases of Canadian bonds accounted for \$1,600,000 and repurchases of Canadian stocks made up the remaining \$500,000. Although still relatively light, net sales of securities to other countries of \$400,000 were larger than in preceding months.

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### Stocks of Canadian Grain on March 31

Stocks of Canadian wheat in all North American positions on March 31 totalled 545,000,000 bushels or some 217,000,000 less than the total at the end of March, 1943. The amount held in bond in the United States was 14,000,000 bushels compared with just over 8,000,000 bushels on March 31, 1943. It is noteworthy also that almost 75 per cent of this year's total is held on farms or is in store in country elevators in the three Prairie Provinces. The terminal elevators at Fort William and Port Arthur, with a total storage capacity of more than 145,000,000 bushels, show slightly more than 49,000,000



bushels in store at March 31, or about nine per cent of the total stocks of wheat at that date.

Wheat held on Canadian farms at the end of March this year totalled 210,000,000 bushels, a reduction of approximately 118,000,000 bushels or 36 per cent from the revised figure of 328,000,000 bushels reported for March 31, 1943. This is the second largest farm stock of wheat on record at the end of March. It is nearly three and one-half times the average of the ten-year period, 1930-1939, which was slightly less than 61,000,000 bushels, and is more than five times the 39,000,000 bushels on farms at the end of March, 1938.

Of this year's total of 210,000,000 bushels on farms throughout Canada, the three Prairie Provinces account for 207,000,000 bushels, made up of 22,000,000 bushels in Manitoba, 117,000,000 in Saskatchewan, and approximately 68,000,000 bushels in Alberta. Out of these totals, seed for the 1944 wheat crop will be taken, while wheat fed to live stock and poultry between April 1 and July 31 this year, will reduce still further the quantities available for marketing as grain in each of the provinces.

The amount of wheat retained on farms for the feeding of live stock and poultry is estimated at 75,000,000 bushels for the crop year 1943-44, compared with the revised figure of 81,000,000 bushels for the crop year 1942-43. The reduction is all accounted for in Ontario, where the crop was short in 1943. A moderate increase is indicated for the Prairie Provinces. These figures are exclusive of western wheat moved under the Federal Freight Assistance Policy to the eastern provinces and British Columbia to be fed to live stock.

Total stocks of Canadian oats on March 31 this year, all of which were located in Canada, amounted to 256,000,000 bushels. Of this total 217,000,000 bushels were still in farmers' hands. A year earlier the total on farms and in commercial storage was 137,000,000 bushels greater. Barley stocks in all positions, including a minor quantity in the United States, amounted to almost 116,000,000 bushels, of which farmers were holding 85,000,000 bushels. On March 31, 1943, the total stocks of barley stood at 167,000,000 bushels, so that there has been a reduction of 51,000,000 bushels during the year.

Stocks of rye, totalling some 13,000,000 bushels at the end of March this year, were mostly in commercial storage, less than 3,000,000 bushels remaining on farms. The total is 8,000,000 bushels smaller than it was on March 31, 1943. Flaxseed stocks, aggregating almost 11,000,000 bushels, compare with 9,000,000 bushels at the end of March last year. This year's total includes about 3,000,000 bushels on farms, which is more than sufficient to seed the acreage objective of 2,800,000 acres set for 1944.

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#### Final Estimate of 1942 Wheat Crop

The 1942 wheat crop in Canada is now finally estimated at 556,684,000 bushels, of which 529,000,000 bushels were produced in the three Prairie Provinces. This downward revision topples the 1942 crop from its previous high position as the largest crop of wheat ever produced in Canada, to that of second largest. The crop of 566,726,000 bushels produced in 1928 is still Canada's number one wheat crop. Most of the writing down was done in Saskatchewan where the crop failed to measure up to indications at harvest time in 1942.

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#### Visible Supply of Canadian Wheat

Stocks of Canadian wheat in store or in transit in North America at midnight on April 13 totalled 329,874,077 bushels, including 322,479,501 in Canadian positions and 7,394,576 in United States positions. On the corresponding date of last year the visible supply amounted to 418,995,023 bushels.

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#### Marketings of Wheat and Coarse Grains

Deliveries of wheat from the farms in the Prairie Provinces during the week ending April 13 amounted to 4,548,169 bushels as compared with 4,815,187 in the previous week. During the elapsed portion of the crop year which commenced August 1 last year, marketings totalled 208,343,832 as compared with 181,381,849 in the similar period of the previous crop year.



The following quantities of coarse grains were also delivered from western Canada farms during the week ending April 13, totals for the previous week being in brackets: oats, 2,975,941 (3,028,683) bushels; barley, 1,501,075 (1,395,499); rye, 57,318 (59,386); flaxseed, 27,217 (21,497) bushels.

#### Leading Mineral Products in February

The Canadian output of coal in February decreased to 1,465,697 tons from 1,578,864 in the corresponding month of last year, gold to 256,803 fine ounces from 327,404, and silver to 1,273,329 fine ounces from 1,622,658, while gypsum production increased to 43,126 tons from 23,517, lime to 75,266 tons from 72,408, and natural gas to 5,022,743,000 cubic feet from 4,489,386,000. February production of other leading mineral products was as follows, totals for February of last year being in brackets: cement, 201,679 (277,766) barrels; clay products, \$324,104 (\$377,833); feldspar, 2,871 (1,546) tons; and commercial salt, 23,631 (23,408) tons.

#### Gainfully Occupied in Ontario in 1941

The gainfully occupied portion of the population of Ontario at the census date in 1941 totalled 1,572,903, representing 41.53 per cent of the total. There were 1,257,475 males and 315,428 females in gainful employment, including those in the Armed Forces. Thus over 84 per cent of the males and nearly 22 per cent of the females, 14 years of age and over were gainfully occupied. The total population of the province in 1941 was 3,787,655, consisting of 1,921,201 males and 1,866,454 females. Figures used in the following paragraphs are exclusive of the Armed Forces.

The ten leading male occupations in Ontario accounted for 51.40 per cent of the gainfully occupied male population in this province. Ranked according to their relative importance they are: farmers and stock raisers 156,208 or 13.70 per cent, farm labourers 107,794 or 9.45 per cent, labourers (not in agriculture, fishing, logging, or mining) 91,358 or 8.01 per cent, office clerks 47,786 or 4.19 per cent, owners and managers (retail trade) 37,246 or 3.27 per cent, truck drivers 32,430 or 2.84 per cent, occupations in metal products manufacturing, not elsewhere specified 30,765 or 2.70 per cent, salespersons in stores 29,436 or 2.58 per cent, carpenters 27,982 or 2.45 per cent, and mechanics and repairmen (not electrical) 25,037 or 2.20 per cent.

Females gainfully occupied in the ten leading female occupations represented 66.95 per cent of the total gainfully employed females in the province. The order of the leading female occupations, found mainly in the service groups, is as follows: domestic servants 40,129 or 12.74 per cent, stenographers and typists 35,280 or 11.20 per cent, office clerks 25,540 or 8.11 per cent, salespersons in stores 22,469 or 7.13 per cent, occupations in clothing and textiles manufacturing, not elsewhere specified 20,948 or 6.65 per cent, school teachers 17,457 or 5.54 per cent, housekeepers and matrons 17,190 or 5.46 per cent, bookkeepers and cashiers 11,098 or 3.52 per cent, graduate nurses 10,943 or 3.47 per cent, and lodging house keepers 9,813 or 3.12 per cent.

Among young persons in gainful occupations 42.41 per cent of the males 14 to 17 years of age were employed as farm labourers while 28.92 per cent of the females in the same age group were employed in manufacturing occupations and 28.74 per cent as domestic servants. In the older ages farmers and stockraisers accounted for 37.20 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 59.23 per cent of the females in this age group.

Of the gainfully occupied females 239,843 or 76.15 per cent were single. However, in professional service and clerical groups about 90 per cent of the total gainfully employed women were single. There were 40,883 married and 23,584 widowed females gainfully employed at the 1941 Census. Nearly 46 per cent of the married women and about 61 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 266,304 or 23.36 per cent of the gainfully occupied males were employers and own accounts, 818,227 or 71.77 per cent were employed as wage-earners, and 51,399 or 4.87 p.c. worked for no pay. Nearly 59 per cent of the gainfully occupied male employers and own accounts were farmers and stockraisers, while 92.43 per cent of the "no pay" workers were farmers' sons working on their fathers' farms. Only 25,489 or 8.09 per cent of the females were reported as employers and own accounts, while 274,320 or 87.10 per cent were employed as wage-earners, and 15,141 or 4.81 per cent as no pay workers.



### Statistics of Operation of Unemployment Insurance Act

Local offices of the Unemployment Insurance Commission received a total of 12,284 claims for unemployment insurance benefit during February. This was the largest monthly total to date and was an increase of 533 over the 11,751 claims received in January. During January and February last year, 4,637 and 4,822 claims were filed. It will thus be seen that the increase between January and February this year represents an expected seasonal rise, but the total number of claims recorded each month during the present winter greatly exceeds the monthly totals a year ago.

Of the 11,432 claims forwarded to insurance offices during February, 8,152 were considered entitled to benefit and 6,337 commenced receiving benefit payments. In all 9,056 persons were paid one or more benefit cheques during February, representing a total payment of \$301,393 for 158,455 days of compensated unemployment. This compares with a total of \$129,722 paid to 4,079 persons for 69,082 days in February, 1943.

The average duration of compensated unemployment was 17.5 days compared with 16.9 days last February. The average amount paid per beneficiary and the average amount paid per compensated day of unemployment was \$33.28 and \$1.90 as against \$31.80 and \$1.88, respectively, in February 1943.

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### Commercial failures in Canada in 1943.

Commercial failures reached a lower point in 1943 than in any other year since records were first kept from the beginning of the century. Progressive declines were shown year by year from 1939 to 1943. The total as reported under the Bankruptcy and Winding-up Acts was 314 as compared with 737 in 1942 and 1,392 in 1939. The defaulted liabilities for 1943 were \$4,486,247 as compared with \$6,019,308 in 1942 and \$15,089,461 in 1939. Grand total assets in 1943 amounted to \$2,720,158 compared with \$4,500,195 in 1942 and \$11,186,360 in 1939.

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### Twenty-first Annual Report on Vital Statistics

The publication of the Twenty-first Annual Report on Vital Statistics is announced by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, data having been obtained under arrangement with Provincial Registration Departments. It is the sixteenth report covering all provinces.

Registration of births, deaths and marriages is carried out by the provincial authorities, each province having passed an act making registration compulsory and prescribing that certain items of information be obtained on a uniform basis. Transcripts of the certificates are forwarded to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics and from these the Annual Reports for Canada as a whole are compiled. As in past years, the statistics of births, deaths and marriages among the Indian population of the provinces are included. They are given separately in Appendix I. A summary of the vital statistics of Yukon and the Northwest Territories forms Appendix II.

The tables dealing with deaths by cause have been compiled in accordance with the Fifth Decennial Revision recommended by the International Commission for classification of Diseases and Causes of Death, at Paris, France, in October, 1938. Appendix III shows the relationship between the Intermediate International List of Causes of Death used in certain tables and the Detailed International List used in others. Appendix IV lists by provinces the number of deaths from all causes and from certain important causes according to the presence or absence of medical attendance. Appendix V presents the number of cases of certain notifiable diseases reported in the provinces of Canada during each month of 1941.

In order that the most essential figures for rates and comparisons in time shall be available, twenty-six tables containing such figures have been included in the report. They comprise the first section, under the title "Comparative and Analytical Tables."

Copies of this report may be obtained on application to the King's Printer, Ottawa—Price, 50 cents each.

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### Area and Value of Field Crops in British Columbia

The area sown to field crops in British Columbia in 1940 was 545,635 acres, an increase of 27.8 per cent over 1930, according to the census of agriculture. The increase was mainly in the areas sown to wheat, cultivated hay and barley, which show increases



of 85.6, 38.3 and 109.1 per cent, respectively.

The value of British Columbia's field crops in 1940 totalled \$10,619,000, a decrease of 4.7 per cent from 1930. The value of wheat increased 84.2 per cent, barley 68.4 per cent, while cultivated hay decreased 17.4 per cent during the ten-year period.

The value of the principal field crops in 1940 was as follows: wheat, \$1,384,777; barley, \$184,742; oats, \$1,360,284; cultivated hay \$3,792,605; grain hay, \$490,310; and potatoes, \$1,742,227.

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#### Grain Situation in Argentina

The following is an excerpt from an official report on crop conditions in Argentina received by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics from its correspondent in Buenos Aires under date of April 4, 1944: "Weather conditions during March were not altogether propitious for the maize crop, inasmuch as precipitation in some of the districts was scarce. The zones which suffered in this respect were the south-west of the province of Buenos Aires, the south-east of the Pampa territory, the centre and north of the province of Santa Fe, and the province of Cordoba.

"In the extreme south of Buenos Aires and the south-east of the Pampa, the losses were considerable, and some of the fields are being used now as pasturage for cattle. In the remainder of the cereal zone of the country the condition of the growing crops continues to be good. A beginning has been made with the picking of the early planted fields of maize, and the work is expected to be intensified as the month advances."

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#### Canada's Trade with Eire

Canada's trade with Southern Ireland, or Eire as it is officially described, is very largely an export of Canadian commodities. Imports from Eire dropped from \$372,277 in 1940 to \$157,044 in 1941, \$69,903 in 1942 and to \$2,383 in 1943. The exports of Canadian commodities to Eire were valued at \$5,775,895 in 1940, \$1,932,025 in 1941, \$4,816,343 in 1942 and \$4,984,644 in 1943. In the two previous exports totalled \$4,439,543 in 1938 and \$3,596,563 in 1939.

The principal exports to Eire in 1942 were as follows, with the 1941 figures within brackets: wheat, 5,048,660 bushels at \$4,261,163 (1,419,583 at \$1,125,230); other grain, nil (\$50,240); bread, biscuits, cereals, etc., nil (\$11,238); edible vegetable fats, nil (\$18,470); rubber and manufactures of \$1,130 (\$7,454); furs, \$9,279 (\$16,651); unmanufactured leather, \$11,537, (\$22,164); manufactures of leather, \$17,463, (\$183); silk socks and stockings, 3,194 dozen pair at \$26,947 (5,075 dozen pair at \$32,789); binder twine, nil (\$96,400); planks and boards, nil (\$52,191); shooks and wood, \$13,148 (\$21,537); wood pulp, \$50,224 (\$10,601); nesprint paper, \$227,411 (\$173,355); farm implements and machinery, \$13,506 (\$3,393); hardware and cutlery, \$56,605 (\$38,286); asbestos, \$20,313 (\$2,494); films, \$11,764 (\$5,288); settlers' effects, \$100 (\$3,036).

During the first three months of 1944 the export of Canadian merchandise to Eire aggregated in value \$2,012,000 as against \$414,000 in the corresponding period of 1943.

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#### Stocks of United States Grain in Canada

Stocks of United States grain in Canada on April 6 amounted to 1,395,877 bushels as compared with 3,072,711 on the corresponding date last year. Corn decreased to 666,529 bushels from 3,049,455, while wheat increased to 718,434 bushels from nil.

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#### Stocks of United States Grain in Canada

Stocks of United States grain in Canada on April 13 totalled 1,265,433 bushels as compared with 3,029,509 on the corresponding date of last year. Wheat stocks increased to 573,515 bushels from nil a year ago, while corn decreased to 682,309 bushels from 3,005,983.

### Car Loadings on Canadian Railways

Car loadings for the week ended April 8 declined to 63,008 cars from 68,995 in the previous week and 66,383 in the corresponding week of last year. The Easter holiday which was two weeks later last year affects these comparisons, but after adjustment, the index number on the base 1935-39=100, dropped from 146.0 for the previous week to 143.6. Western grain loadings continued heavy, amounting to 7,187 cars as compared with 4,787 last year. Coal loadings in the western division declined from 2,705 to 1,598 cars and in the eastern division from 3,123 to 2,815 cars.

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### Reports Issued During the Week

1. Car Loadings on Canadian Railways (10 cents).
  2. Loadings of Revenue Freight, March (10 cents).
  3. Sales and Purchases of Securities Between Canada and Other Countries, January (10 cents).
  4. Stocks of Canadian Grain on March 31, 1944 (10 cents).
  5. Canadian Grain Statistics (10 cents).
  6. Canada's Leading Mineral Products, February (10 cents).
  7. The Grain Situation in Argentina (10 cents).
  8. Canada's Domestic Exports by Principal Countries, March (10 cents).
  9. Summary of Canada's Domestic Exports, March (10 cents).
  10. Gold Production, February (10 cents).
  11. Commercial Failures, 1942-1943 (10 cents).
  12. Statistical Report on the Operation of the Unemployment Insurance Act, February (10 cents).
  13. Gainfully Occupied in Ontario, 1941 (10 cents).
  14. Area, Production and Value of Field Crops, 1940, and Area 1941, British Columbia (10 cents).
  15. Twenty-first Annual Report on Vital Statistics, 1941 (50 cents).
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