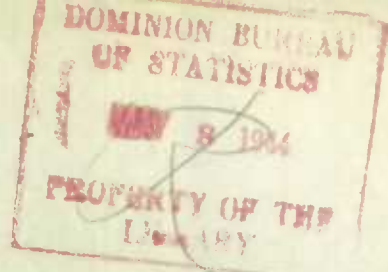


WEEKLY BULLETIN

Dominion Bureau of Statistics

Department of Trade and Commerce



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Business Expansion in March

Productive operations rose to a higher point in March than in the second month of the year. The index of the physical volume of business rose more than six points to 247.8 in March. Four of the five components recorded gains even after seasonal adjustment. Mineral production, the output of the electric power industry, new business obtained by the construction firms and distribution were at higher levels. A decline of four points was shown in the index of the volume of manufacturing, the standing in March having been 300.5.

The decline in the general index during February was counterbalanced by the expansion of March, the business index reaching a higher position than in the first month of the year. The standing, however, was slightly below the historical maximum attained in the last month of 1943. The gain in the general index over the same month of 1943 was about seven per cent, an irregular advance having been shown during the last nine months of the year.

Coal production was 1,549,000 tons in March against 1,466,000 tons in the preceding month. A considerable gain was recorded after seasonal adjustment. The index of releases of tobacco rose from 224 to 228, cigarette releases having been 1,049,000,000 against 971,000,000 in the preceding month. The increase in the release of cigars was less than normal for the season. Considerable gain was shown in the operations of the textile industry, the index rising from 138 to 151.

The index indicating the conditions in the forestry industry rose slightly from 124.6 to 125.3. Gains were shown in the exports of wood pulp and planks and boards while the gain in newsprint and export of shingles was less than normal for the season. Timber scaled in British Columbia rose from 173 million feet to 235 million.

The primary iron and steel industry was more active in March, gains being shown in the index of the production of steel and pig iron. The indexes of operations in the iron and steel group generally and in non-ferrous metals showed reaction.

Imports of petroleum were 144 million gallons against 123 million in the preceding month, the gain being less than normal for the season. Construction contracts awarded were \$31 million against \$16.2 million, the index rising from 132 to 242. Gain was shown in the output of the central electric stations, the increase having been slightly more than normal. Exports were nearly \$290 million against \$229 million.

Economic Activity in March compared with the Preceding Month
1935 - 1939=100

	1944	
	March	February
Physical Volume of Business	247.8	241.6
Industrial Production	282.7	279.5
Mineral Production	262.6	255.5
Gold Receipts	79.4	72.9
Coal Production	131.4	117.4
Manufacturing	300.5	304.5
Flour Production*	217.5	199.9
Rolled Oats Production*	62.0	57.7
Inspected Slaughtering	235.7	233.1
Cattle	130.1	132.4
Sheep	190.6	147.5
Hogs	320.1	315.5
Creamery Butter	132.4	130.2
Factory Cheese	196.4	147.7
Tobacco	228.0	223.9
Cigar Releases	212.6	234.9
Cigarette Releases	229.2	222.9
Boots and Shoes Production*	154.5	183.8
Textiles	150.6	137.7
Cotton Consumption	156.0	130.6

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Economic Activity in March compared with the Preceding Month
1935 - 1939=100

	March	1944 February
Forestry	125.3	124.6
Newsprint	105.2	110.0
Iron and Steel	588.0	599.6
Pig Iron Production	238.8	210.4
Steel Production	214.9	199.8
Construction	201.8	113.3
Contracts Awarded	242.2	131.5
Building Permits	100.7	98.9
Cost of Construction	135.7	135.3
Electric Power	154.7	153.8
Distribution	175.4	163.1
Marketings -		
Grain and Live Stock Marketings	220.3	237.2
Grain Marketings - Country Elevators	244.2	257.3
Wheat	382.8	403.8
Oats	217.1	155.9
Live Stock Marketings	116.4	149.9
Cattle	118.7	154.9
Calves	78.9	81.0
Hogs	132.8	168.7
Sheep	93.9	125.5
Cold Storage Holdings, 1st of following month	245.3	217.9
Butter	133.0	110.2
Cheese	112.2	134.9
Beef	214.7	227.4
Pork	250.7	240.7
Mutton	183.7	154.5
Poultry	215.1	194.4
Lard	642.5	547.4
Veal	157.0	166.1
*Preceding Month		

Canada's External Trade in March

Canada's external trade, excluding gold, was valued at \$440,728,000 in March as compared with \$367,632,000 in the previous month and \$352,686,000 in the corresponding month of last year. The trade during the first three months of this year aggregated \$1,180,725,000 as compared with \$942,410,000 in the similar period of last year, an increase of \$238,314,000 or 25.3 per cent.

Exports of Canadian commodities in March totalled \$282,682,000 as compared with \$227,168,000 in February and \$205,170,000 a year ago. The total for the first three months of this year was \$751,862,000 as compared with \$605,194,000 a year ago. March exports to the United Kingdom were valued at \$110,400,000 compared with \$65,000,000 in March last year, and to the United States \$97,400,000 compared with \$88,100,000.

Commodity imports in March were of the value of \$150,786,000 as compared with \$138,370,000 in February and \$146,113,000 in March of last year. For the first three months of this year the imports totalled \$415,525,000 compared with \$387,830,000 in the like period of 1943. Imports from the United States in March were valued at \$123,300,000 as compared with \$120,000,000 in March last year, and from the United Kingdom \$9,800,000 as compared with \$12,200,000.

Re-exports of foreign commodities in March totalled \$7,260,000 compared with \$2,099,000 in February and \$1,403,000 a year ago. Duties collected on imports during the month amounted to \$16,136,000 compared with \$15,149,000 in February and \$12,448,000 in March last year.

Canada's Merchandise Imports in March

Canada's merchandise imports in March were valued at \$150,786,000 as compared with \$138,370,000 in February and \$146,113,000 in the corresponding month of last year, thus increasing the total for the first three months of this year to \$415,525,000 from \$387,830,000 in the similar period of last year.

The United States was the principal source of supply, the imports from that country in March totalling \$123,347,000 as compared with \$119,981,000 in March of last year, and for the first three months of this year \$345,406,000 as compared with \$318,972,000 in the corresponding period of 1943. Imports from the United Kingdom in March were valued at \$9,793,000 compared with \$12,171,000 in March last year, while the total for the first quarter was \$23,555,000 compared with \$30,376,000.

March imports from other leading countries were as follows, totals for March 1943 being in brackets: British South Africa, \$1,036,000 (\$338,000); British India, \$2,399,000 (\$629,000); Ceylon, \$709,000 (\$373,000); Jamaica, \$1,205,000 (\$458,000); Australia, \$995,000 (\$449,000); New Zealand, \$1,192,000 (\$1,275,000); Argentina, \$1,572,000 (\$1,910,000); Brazil, \$972,000 (\$420,000); Colombia, \$961,000 (\$232,000); Mexico, \$1,104,000 (\$1,585,000); San Domingo, \$961,000 (nil); Venezuela, \$937,000 (\$673,000).

The following were amongst the leading commodities imported during March, comparisons with last year being in brackets: fruits, \$4,376,000 (\$3,368,000); cotton, \$8,359,000 (\$9,180,000); wool, \$4,656,000 (\$4,709,000); wood and paper, \$3,536,000 (\$3,679,000); rolling mill products, \$4,074,000 (\$5,425,000); engines and boilers, \$4,854,000 (\$1,459,000); machinery, other than agricultural, \$8,047,000 (\$7,048,000); vehicles, \$9,003,000 (\$1,796,000); electrical apparatus, \$5,202,000 (\$2,511,000); coal, \$8,699,000 (\$7,292,000); petroleum products, \$6,259,000 (\$6,589,000); chemicals, \$6,793,000 (\$6,074,000).

Employment Situation on March 1

Employment in Canada showed a further contraction at March 1 in a movement which was seasonal in character but was above normal in extent. The 14,383 establishments cooperating in the survey conducted by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics reported a combined working force of 1,831,310 men and women. As compared with 1,844,190 at February 1, there was a reduction of 12,880 persons or 0.7 per cent. The weekly salaries and wages paid showed an advance, standing at \$59,028,861 as compared with the aggregate of \$58,569,775 disbursed by the same firms at the beginning of February.

The general recession in industrial activity lowered the index of employment, on the 1926 base, from 183.2 at Feb. 1, to 181.9 at the date under review, as compared with 181.5 at Mar. 1 of last year. Since the loss rather exceeded the average at the beginning of March in earlier years, the seasonally-corrected figure also declined, falling from 190.3 at Feb. 1, to 189.6 at Mar. 1.

Employment in manufacturing at Mar. 1 showed a reduction. The loss was not on a large scale, but is particularly interesting for the reason that it took place to a considerable extent among plants producing durable manufactured goods. In this class, some 4,000 men and women were laid-off by the co-operating establishments. While the decrease in the light manufactured goods industries approximated 300.

Among the non-manufacturing classes, logging, mining, communications, construction and maintenance and retail trade reported curtailment, mainly of a seasonal character. The largest losses were in construction, from which some 7,000 workers were released. These declines and those in trade, were greater than usual at the beginning of March in the record of 24 years. The decrease in the other industries mentioned, however, were below-normal in extent. On the other hand, services showed a moderate increase, and there was considerable improvement in transportation.

Visible Supply of Wheat

Stocks of Canadian wheat in store or in transit in North America at midnight on April 27, totalled 312,805,827 bushels, including 292,508,498 in Canadian positions and 20,297,329 in United States positions. On the corresponding date of last year stocks amounted to 417,404,439 bushels.

Farmers' Marketings of Wheat and Coarse Grains

Deliveries of wheat from the farms in the three Prairie Provinces during the week ending April 27 amounted to 5,606,072 bushels as compared with 6,046,424 in the previous week, while the total for the elapsed portion of the crop year which commenced August 1, 1943, was 219,957,344 bushels as compared with 190,212,178 in the similar period of the previous year.

The following quantities of coarse grains were also delivered from western-Canada farms during the week ending April 27, totals for the previous week being in brackets: oats, 4,544,356 (4,037,824) bushels; barley, 1,852,828 (1,809,201); rye, 88,151 (89,297); flaxseed, 53,127 (37,053).

World Wheat Situation

Greater significance attaches to the 1944 wheat harvest in North America than seemed at all likely eight or ten months ago. It is expected that 1,750,000,000 bushels of Canadian and United States wheat will disappear during the present crop year, and that the combined carry-over of the two countries will show a reduction of 540,000,000 bushels from the total a year earlier.

Canada is expected to dispose of at least 500,000,000 bushels of wheat in the twelve months ending July, this year, the largest disappearance in a single crop year since 1928-29 when the Dominion hung up its standing record for overseas exports. Domestic utilization will account for a minimum of 175,000,000 bushels of this total, while a substantial part of the balance will represent exports to the United States for live stock feeding purposes.

These figures suggest a Canadian carry-over of 375,000,000 bushels of wheat at the end of next July compared with the revised carry-over of 594,000,000 bushels on July 31, 1943. With this much wheat on hand, even a poor crop in 1944 would not threaten Canada's ability to export a very large volume of wheat during the crop year 1944-45, although it might result in the carry-over being reduced to more normal proportions by the middle of 1945.

It is perhaps of interest to note that Canada's smallest wheat crop in the past twenty-nine years was 180,000,000 bushels harvested in the very bad drought year of 1937. A crop no larger than this in 1944, added to the prospective carry-over, would permit of the disposition of 500,000,000 bushels in 1944-45 and still leave 55,000,000 bushels to be added to the 1945 harvest. The present moisture situation in western Canada certainly does not breed optimism, but at this early date neither does it preclude the possibility of a moderate wheat crop.

The demand for Canadian wheat in the United States has been a leading factor in building up the large disposition total in the current crop year. Were this demand to continue on the same scale in the new crop year and the need for large relief shipments from Canada also arise, our surplus could disappear in fifteen months, but there are increasing signs that United States demands might be lessened in 1944-45.

Winter wheat prospects have greatly improved in the United States during the past two months and the official estimate of production based on April 1 conditions was 602,000,000 bushels compared with 530,000,000 bushels harvested in 1943. Spring wheat moisture conditions were more favourable than in Canada's prairie provinces and there is likely to be a much larger acreage for harvest in 1944 than in 1943.

The wheat position in the other two countries making up the "Big Four", is still very healthy. Argentina had a surplus of 254,000,000 bushels on April 1 after allowance had been made for domestic requirements and some relief shipments, while Australia's stocks of wheat about the same time totalled 190,000,000 bushels. How much of Australia's stock was surplus for export was not disclosed.

Crop news from Europe continues to strike an optimistic note. Weather conditions have continued to favour the progress of fall-sown crops and have permitted rapid progress in spring seeding in most areas. Some delay in seeding operations is reported from the Balkan countries due to too much rain, and this fact together with military developments may curtail spring acreage.

Drought is still a complaint from Portugal and Spain and hope of recovery from the toll taken of fall-sown crops is slim. Both countries will continue to require heavy importations of foreign wheat if bread rations are to be maintained even at sharply reduced levels from normal consumption.

Acreage for the 1944 wheat harvest in the United Kingdom may show some reduction from a year ago, according to latest trade advices. The area sown to fall wheat is believed to have been below intentions, while the drought in 1944 has hampered spring sowings. Crops are reported to be well rooted and look healthy so that the outturn is likely again to be substantial.

The position with respect to Russia remains obscure. The Nazis have now been driven out of the large grain producing areas of the Soviet Union but it is difficult to appraise in terms of grain supplies what this will mean to the Russians in 1944. There is no doubt that Russia benefited from grain territories wrested from the Nazis in the North Caucasus and eastern Ukraine a year ago, but indications point to the necessity of imports from the United Nations on a fairly substantial scale, largely in the form of wheat flour, during the ensuing year.

India's new wheat crop appears to have suffered weather and disease damage and the harvest may be considerably smaller than at first expected. Millet crops appear also to have suffered and since this is an important food crop in India the whole food situation in 1944-45 has been aggravated at a time when it was thought the difficulties of a year ago had been largely overcome. The need of continued imports of wheat and flour from Australia, plus Canada's gift, would seem to remain.

Pack of Canned Fruits and Vegetables

The pack of canned peaches, baked beans, tomatoes and peas in Canada in 1943 was sharply reduced from that of 1942, according to preliminary totals released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The pack of canned peaches totalled 6,142,280 pounds compared with 27,201,065 in 1942, baked beans, including limas 6,365,253 pounds compared with 32,547,918, tomatoes 64,008,117 pounds compared with 102,024,319, and peas 57,626,589 pounds compared with 96,440,639.

The pack of other types of fruits and vegetables included the following, in pounds, totals for 1942 being in brackets: blueberries, 3,518,037 (637,581); cherries, 1,836,532 (3,943,777); pears, 14,582,519 (16,028,883); asparagus, 2,859,648 (3,751,990); green or wax beans, 22,303,432 (27,388,921); beets, 1,664,804 (707,635); carrots, 4,296,733 (791,899); carrots and peas combined, 1,368,832 (1,788,862); corn, 33,752,094 (48,445,147); foods for infants, 16,543,532 (7,006,299); soups 85,471,586 (80,605,147); tomato juice, 74,957,276 (79,023,685).

Storage Stocks of Butter, Cheese and Eggs

Stocks of creamery butter in nine of the principal cities of Canada at the opening of business on May 1 totalled 3,400,274 pounds compared with 5,036,923 on April 1 and 5,597,397 on the corresponding date of last year. Cheese stocks were 11,024,542 pounds compared with 14,694,427 on April 1 and 8,815,668 a year ago. Shell eggs totalled 4,814,762 dozen compared with 2,621,564 on April 1, while stocks of frozen eggs amounted to 14,777,941 pounds compared with 9,562,634 on April 1 and 4,226,188 on May 1 last year.

Production of Wheat Flour in March

Production of wheat flour in Canadian mills in March reached a high mark for the current crop year, amounting to 2,267,307 barrels compared with 2,193,029 in the corresponding month of last year. Total production for the eight months of the crop year which commenced August 1, 1943, reached 16,766,163 barrels, with about half the quantity passing into the export market. In the corresponding period of the previous crop year production totalled 15,591,772 barrels. Mills reporting March operations had a milling capacity of 88,382 barrels per 24-hour day, and over a 27-day working period 95 per cent of this was effective.

The quantity of wheat ground in March was 9,921,561 bushels compared with 9,718,770 barrels in the same month of last year. Total wheat ground from the commencement of the current crop year to the end of March was 73,930,554 bushels compared with 69,541,242 bushels in the similar period of 1942-43. The following quantities of coarse grains were ground in March, totals for March of last year being in brackets: oats, 1,900,103 (1,334,252) bushels; corn, 202,050 (235,930); barley, 808,970 (470,524); buckwheat, 2,027 (2,224); Mixed grain, 2,366,300 (3,093,267).

April 1 Cost of Living Index

The cost of living index number on the base 1935-39=100 rose to 119.1 on April 1 from 119.0 on March 1 for a wartime increase of 18.2 per cent. The food index advanced 0.4 over the March 1 standing and the clothing index 0.1 during this interval, with other groups showing no variation.

Seasonal price increases for vegetables and oranges were mainly responsible for a rise in the food index from 131.1 to 131.5, despite minor declines for eggs, lard and meats. The clothing index gained fractionally 121.3 to 121.4, while other group indexes remained unchanged as follows: rents, 111.9; fuel and light, 113.0; homefurnishings and services, 118.4; and miscellaneous items, 109.0.

Index Numbers of Wholesale Prices in April

Weakness predominated in Canadian farm product prices in April and the index number on the base 1926=100 fell 0.6 points to 103.6 between the weeks of March 31 and April 28. In the field products section there was a decline of 0.8 to 91.9; lower prices for potatoes outweighed strength in timothy hay, rye and onions. Animal products dipped 0.2 to 123.3 due to weakness for veal calves and eggs.

Higher food prices offset lower quotations in the manufacturing materials series to hold the composite index for 30 industrial materials unchanged at 99.6 between March 31 and April 28. The weekly index for five food materials stiffened 0.2 to 100.2 in the

same interval, due to fractionally firmer prices for steers and hogs, while a reduction in rosin was responsible for a decline of 0.2 to 83.6 for the index of 13 manufacturing materials. The stable series of 12 items held unchanged at 120.1.

Index Numbers of Security Prices

A mixed tendency was in evidence on Canadian stock exchanges in April. Between March 30 and April 27 the investors' composite index of 95 common stocks on the base 1935-1939=100 eased 2.6 per cent to 78.5. Major factors in this movement were declines in transportation issues, down 7.2 per cent to 110.4, and pulp and paper shares 6.6 per cent lower at 106.2. Other sub-groups to record relatively sharp declines were beverage shares, down 5.8 per cent to 147.7; power and traction 4.8 per cent lower at 89.3 and textiles and clothing stocks 4.2 per cent at 116.2. Telephone and telegraph issues stiffened 1.1 per cent to 98.7 to register the only increase.

In the mining stocks section, marked strength occurred for base metal issues in the opening week. This advanced the sub-group index 5.9 points to 92.3, while for the whole period March 30 to April 27, the base metals index gain was 6.5 points to 92.9. Golds registered a rise of 0.9 per cent to 70.2, while the composite index for 25 representative mining issues closed up 3.3 per cent to 78.2. There was no change in Dominion of Canada long-term bond prices as indicated by the yield on a 15-year three per cent theoretical issue which held unchanged at 3.00.

Production of Crude Petroleum in February

The Canadian output of crude petroleum and natural gasoline in February totalled 721,749 barrels as compared with 777,552 in the previous month, exclusive of production in the Northwest Territories. Alberta's February output was recorded at 707,882 barrels, of which 683,564 came from the Turner Valley Field.

Production of Natural Gas in February

February production of natural gas totalled 5,022,743,000 cubic feet as compared with 5,136,573,000 in the previous month and 4,489,386,000 in the corresponding month of last year. During the first two months of this year production amounted to 10,159,316,000 cubic feet as compared with 9,965,577 in the similar period of last year.

Sales of Gasoline in January

Sales of motor, tractor and aviation grades of gasoline in Canada in January amounted to 56,757,000 gallons as compared with 46,155,000 in the corresponding month of last year, according to returns received by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics from the tax departments of the Provincial Governments and from Canadian oil companies.

January sales were as follows by provinces, totals for January 1943 being in brackets: Prince Edward Island, 498,000 (367,000) gallons; Nova Scotia, 2,830,000 (2,875,000); New Brunswick, 1,850,000 (1,504,000); Quebec, 8,703,000 (7,554,000); Ontario, 20,618,000 (18,395,000); Manitoba, 4,383,000 (2,819,000); Saskatchewan, 5,049,000 (2,964,000); Alberta, 7,223,000 (4,502,000); British Columbia, 5,603,000 (3,175,000).

Production of Iron and Steel in March

Production of pig iron in Canada in March amounted to 168,047 net tons as compared with 150,486 in the corresponding month of last year, increasing the output for the first three months of this year to 442,053 net tons from 414,668 in the similar period of 1943.

Output of steel ingots and steel castings during March totalled 275,389 net tons as compared with 270,962 in March of last year. During the first three months of this year production amounted to 747,577 net tons as compared with 723,558 in the corresponding period of 1943.

Production of ferro-alloys in March amounted to 13,427 net tons compared with 14,720 in the previous month and 20,324 in the corresponding month of last year. Output during the first three months of 1944 totalled 44,642 net tons as compared with 56,973 in the like period last year.

Claims for Unemployment Insurance in March

The number of claims for unemployment insurance benefit declined slightly in March from the February total, but remained well above the number recorded during March of last year. A total of 10,667 claims were filed in local offices throughout Canada as against 12,284 in February and 5,046 in March of 1943.

Since all claimants and beneficiaries must sign the live unemployment register each week and many of them who signed had lodged their claims in previous months, the number of persons signing the register increased from 16,121 during the last week in February to 16,406 during the last week in March.

The number of persons who received benefit during March totalled 16,679, representing a considerable increase over February when 9,056 were paid benefit. This was also a notable increase over the 5,996 persons who received benefit during March of last year. A similar increase over the previous month and March of 1943 occurred respecting the number of days' benefit paid and the amount of benefit paid. These totalled 388,544 days and \$755,966 during March compared with 158,455 days and \$301,393 in February and 104,801 days and \$197,591 during March, 1943.

The average duration of compensated unemployment was 23.3 days as against 17.5 days in both February 1944 and March, 1943. The average amount paid per beneficiary was \$45.32 in March compared with \$33.28 during February and \$32.95 in March, 1943. The average amount paid per compensated day of unemployment increased to \$1.95 from \$1.90 in February and \$1.89 in March, 1943.

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

Net sales of securities by Canada to other countries amounted to \$7,500,000 in February compared with \$6,100,000 in January and \$7,800,000 in December. Net sales to the United States were \$9,000,000, while net repurchases from the United Kingdom were \$1,900,000. Net sales to other countries amounted to \$400,000, being approximately the same as in January. In the first two months of 1944 net sales to all countries amounted to \$13,600,000 compared with \$26,300,000 in the similar period of 1943.

Sales of securities to all countries in February totalled \$16,100,000 as compared with \$16,600,000 in the previous month and \$22,200,000 in the corresponding month of last year. Purchases during the month amounted to \$8,600,000 compared with \$10,500,000 in January and \$7,200,000 in February of last year. Sales to the United States were valued at \$15,600,000 while purchases from that country totalled \$6,600,000.

Country General Store Sales in March

Dollar sales transacted in country general stores in March this year were valued 12 per cent higher than in the corresponding month of last year, the index number on the base 1935-1939=100 rising to 136.1 from 121.9. All regions of the country shared in the increase. During the first three months of this year sales averaged 11.3 per cent higher than in the similar period of last year.

Forest Products of Farms in 1940

Forest products cut on Canadian farms in 1940 were valued at \$39,809,000 an increase of 8.7 per cent over 1930. The value of these products used on the farms was \$20,787,451, while the value of the products sold was \$19,021,000. Farm usage of these products included firewood to the value of \$19,146,000 and other products, \$1,642,000. The products sold included firewood to the value of \$6,976,000, pulpwood \$6,076,000 and other products \$5,969,000.

Civil Aviation in December

Passengers carried by civil aircraft during December increased to 26,702 from 23,435 in November and 16,439 in December, 1942. Revenue freight amounted to 730,600 pounds as compared with 835,235 in the corresponding month of last year, while the mail transported totalled 769,005 pounds as compared with 674,942. The number of employees was increased from 2,456 in December 1942 to 4,170, and the pay roll to \$657,354 from \$421,068. Operating revenues of Canadian licensed operators increased from \$1,111,918 in 1942 to \$1,413,254, and operating expenses increased from \$1,330,376 to \$1,629,079.

Railway Revenues in February

Canadian railways earned \$59,630,307 in February as compared with \$53,024,504 in the corresponding month of last year, an increase of 12.5 per cent. Operating expenses increased by \$5,522,116 or 13.2 per cent and the operating income increased from \$7,238,843 to \$8,510,971. Freight traffic measured in revenue ton miles increased by 12.7 per cent and passenger miles by 15.6 per cent. The number of employees increased from 155,851 to 159,887, or by 2.6 per cent.

Car Loadings on Canadian Railways

Car loadings on Canadian railways during the week ended April 22 amounted to 70,224 cars, the highest weekly total reached so far this year. The increase over the previous week was 2,187 cars. Loadings in the western division increased from 26,212 in the previous week to 26,597 cars, grain loadings continuing heavy. In the eastern division the total increased from 41,825 cars to 43,627 cars, coal increasing from 2,942 cars for the previous week to 3,390 cars.

Sales of Clay Products in February

Sales of clay products in Canada in February were valued at \$334,107 as compared with \$362,538 in the previous month and \$377,833 in the corresponding month of last year. Sales in February this year included the following: building brick, \$116,350; structural tile, \$36,329; drain tile, \$16,160; sewer pipe, \$24,610; firebrick, \$15,330; fireclay blocks and shapes, \$21,053; pottery, \$71,006; other clay products, \$23,259.

Stocks of United States Grain in Canada

Stocks of United States grain in Canada on April 27 totalled 1,350,590 bushels as compared with 3,960,933 on the corresponding date of last year. Stocks this year included the following, totals for 1943 being in brackets: wheat, 654,721 (nil); corn, 691,233 (3,937,677); soybeans, 4,636 (nil).

Reports Issued During the Week.

1. Canadian Grain Statistics (10 cents).
2. Price Movements, April (10 cents).
3. Domestic Sales of Asphalt Roofing, March (10 cents).
4. Production of Asphalt Roofing, March (10 cents).
5. Canadian Milling Statistics, March (10 cents).
6. Clay Products Industry, February (10 cents).
7. Forest Products of Farms, Canada, 1940 (10 cents).
8. Car Loadings on Canadian Railways (10 cents).
9. Monthly Review of the Wheat Situation (10 cents).
10. Monthly Indexes of Country General Store Sales, March (10 cents).
11. Operating Revenues, Expenses and Statistics of Railways, February (10 cents).
12. Civil Aviation, December (10 cents).
13. Summary of Canada's Imports, March (10 cents).
14. Imports by Principal Countries, March (10 cents).
15. Trade of Canada, March (10 cents).
16. Production of Iron and Steel, March (10 cents).
17. Sales and Purchases of Securities Between Canada and Other Countries, February (10 cents).
18. The Wire and Wire Goods Industry, 1942 (25 cents).
19. Statistical Report on the Operation of the Unemployment Insurance Act, March (10 cents).
20. Preliminary Report on the Pack of Canned Fruits and Vegetables, 1943 (10 cents).
21. Advance Preliminary Statement of Stocks of Canadian Butter, Cheese and Eggs in Principal Cities, May 1 (10 cents).
22. Employment Situation, March 1 (10 cents).
23. Petroleum and Natural Gas Production, February; and Petroleum Fuel Sales, January (10 cents).



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