

Output of Dairy Products in May

Creamery butter production in May moved up to 33,918,942 pounds. This represents an increase of approximately $1\frac{1}{4}$ million pounds or 5.3 per cent over that produced in the same month of the preceding year. All provinces except Nova Scotia and Ontario shared in this advance. This reverses the trend reported in the preceding month when a decline of 13.6 per cent was registered and is due to the fact that the season was more advanced, providing more luscious pasture than in May 1943 when the weather was inclined to be rather cold and backward. The accumulative production of creamery butter during the January - May period amounted to 89,662,220 pounds or 6.5 per cent less than that reported a year ago.

A marked improvement in the butter supply situation in May, coupled with periodical cuts in the ration, offers more favourable prospects of building up reserve stocks, so much needed during the winter period, than was the case a month ago.

Cheddar cheese production in May was approximately 20 million pounds, representing a gain of over five million pounds, or 34.6 per cent above that of May, 1943. The accumulative production, January to May, was 35,621,150 pounds or 31.5 per cent more than the May make in 1943. All provinces shared in this increase, the most significant gain being registered in Quebec where the production moved up almost three million pounds. In Ontario a gain of 17.3 per cent was recorded. However, the output in that province was only 66 per cent of the total make for all Canada in May 1944 as compared with 75 per cent in May, 1943. It is a significant fact that the cheese production in May was the highest recorded since monthly records were first compiled in 1936. The Government subsidy of 20 cents a hundred paid on all milk used for this purpose was an important factor in the situation.

The production of concentrated milk products in May, including whole milk, skim milk and butter milk, amounted to 35,220,000 pounds, an increase of 17.4 per cent. Milk products amounted to 27,853,000 pounds, an increase of 9.4 per cent over the same month of 1943. Evaporated milk reported in the latter registered a total of 22,889,562 pounds, a gain of 9.7 per cent, and condensed milk advanced to 3,395,058 pounds, or approximately 32 per cent above that of May, 1943. Milk by-products also increased, showing a total of 7,367,111 pounds, an increase of 62 per cent over the same month of last year. Skim milk powder represented in this total was 4,664,648 pounds, being up approximately 63 per cent. The accumulative production, January to May, of whole milk products was 84,189,903 pounds, an increase of 3.6 per cent, and milk by-products 17,238,768 pounds or 23 per cent above that produced in the first five months of 1943.

Milk production during the month of April amounted to approximately 1,335,000,000 pounds, a decline of 1.9 per cent as compared with that produced in the same month of the preceding year. The proportion of this milk used for factory production was 48 per cent in April as compared with 50 per cent in April, 1943; and milk otherwise used was more than 44 per cent as compared with 42 per cent a year ago. Total butter production represented 43 per cent of all milk produced as compared with 48 per cent in April, 1943, and total cheese was 6.8 per cent as compared with five per cent a year ago. The accumulative production of milk, January to April, reached a total of 4,281,000,000 pounds, just slightly below that produced in the first four months of 1943.

Food Stocks in Nine Cities on June 1

There were 7,539,458 pounds of creamery butter in storage in nine of the principal cities of Canada on the morning of June 1, 1944, according to reports received by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. This quantity was less than that of June 1 a year ago when the stocks were 11,115,724 pounds, but it was more than double the holdings as at May 1 this year, the total at that date having been 3,470,135 pounds.

The quantity of cheese on hand on June 1 was 17,187,703 pounds as compared with 10,738,576 last year and 11,020,435 last month. Shell eggs on hand totalled 6,734,611 dozen. Last month the stocks were 4,853,220 dozen while last year the holdings were 4,365,117 dozen. Frozen egg meat totalled 22,035,674 pounds, much greater than the holdings last year of 9,648,444 pounds and nearly seven million pounds more than stocks on May 1 of 15,382,034 pounds.

Visible Supply of Canadian Wheat

Stocks of Canadian wheat in store or in transit in North America at midnight on June 1 totalled 278,510,467 bushels, including 261,092,185 bushels in Canadian positions and 17,418,282 in United States positions. Stocks on the corresponding date of last year amounted to 401,775,817 bushels.

Marketings of Wheat and Coarse Grains

Farmers in the three Prairie Provinces delivered 3,303,777 bushels of wheat during the week ending June 1 as compared with 3,227,693 in the previous week, while the total for the elapsed portion of the crop year which commenced August 1, 1943, amounted to 235,901,384 bushels as compared with 212,032,063 in the similar period of the previous crop year.

The following quantities of coarse grains were also delivered from farms in the Prairie Provinces during the week ended June 1, totals for the previous week being in brackets: oats, 2,467,283 (2,653,506) bushels; barley, 927,323 (1,361,273); rye, 24,957 (32,143); flaxseed, 19,763 (16,371) bushels.

Crop Conditions in Canada

Excellent crop prospects are reported over the country generally with timely rains occurring in most of the areas where moisture supplies were inadequate. Dry weather prevailed over all three Maritime Provinces, Quebec and eastern Ontario during May, but recent rains improved crop, hay and pasture conditions materially.

Prince Edward Island has had the driest May in 24 years but moisture conditions are now satisfactory and germination of grain crops is satisfactory. Dry weather prevailed in Nova Scotia retarding germination and growth but recent rains have improved hay and pastures. Average to above average fruit crops are in prospect. Seeding is now nearly completed in New Brunswick. The hay crop is thin.

Recent rains have improved crop conditions in Quebec and eastern Ontario and crop prospects are now promising. Other sections of Ontario report excellent growth and prospects are for above average crops.

Timely rains have occurred in the Prairie Provinces and conditions are generally good with only a relatively small area suffering from inadequate moisture. In Manitoba heavy rains were widespread and crops are making rapid growth. A few areas report excessive moisture. Seeding of wheat and coarse grains has been practically completed in Saskatchewan and except for the south-west, crops are making good progress. Good rains occurred in many areas of Alberta but more is needed in the southern part of the province. Generally crop prospects are promising.

Conditions in British Columbia are generally favourable and prospects are for one of the heaviest fruit crops on record. Strawberries and early vegetables are now moving to market.

Capacity of Flour Mills in Canada

A total of 200 mills engaged in the production of wheat flour in Canada reported their operations to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics during the past year. Of this number, 90 were in Ontario, 102 in the three Prairie Provinces and the remaining eight in Quebec, the Maritime Provinces and British Columbia. These mills could, in a single day, working three shifts of eight hours each, produce a total of 92,500 barrels of flour.

Many of these mills estimated that they could maintain their rated daily capacity for 300 days or more in the year, others estimated between 200 and 300 days and still others indicated a maximum of less than 200 days annually. The average would appear to be in the neighbourhood of 285 days per year, and this would represent an output of 26,366,000 barrels of flour annually.

The calendar year 1943 witnessed the heaviest production of wheat flour in the history of the Canadian milling industry. A total of 24,474,696 barrels of 196 pounds each, was produced in the 12 months ended December last, according to preliminary figures. This was equal to 93 per cent of the maximum production capacity indicated for 1944. Some mills operated on a seven-day week for extended periods during 1943

under the pressure of export orders from the United Nations.

The record of drawback payments made to millers producing rye flour for domestic consumption and reports received by the Bureau show that the volume of rye flour produced in Canada is not very large. In 1942, the last complete year for which figures are available, the output was 52,600 barrels of 196 pounds each.

Cost of Living Index

The Dominion Bureau of Statistics cost of living index on the base 1935-1939=100 increased from 119.1 on April 1 to 119.2 on May 1, 1944. Fractional advances in the food, clothing, and home-furnishings group indexes outweighed a moderate decline in the fuel and lighting section. The food index rose from 131.5 for April to 131.7 for May, as cabbage, carrots and oranges increased in price while small declines occurred for potatoes, eggs, and some cuts of meats. Lower coal prices in western centres and removal of the provincial sales tax on coal in Quebec combined to reduce the fuel and lighting series from 113.0 to 112.5. The clothing index changed from 121.4 to 121.5, while home-furnishings and services also moved up 0.1 to 118.5. Rents remained at 111.9 and miscellaneous items at 109.0. The wartime increase in the cost of living is from 100.8 to 119.2 or 18.3 per cent.

Wholesale Price Movements in May

The index of Canadian farm product prices moved lower again in May, closing at 101.7 for the week of the 26th, compared with 103.6 a month earlier. Animal product prices dropped 3.2 points to 120.1, due to decreases in producers' prices for fresh milk and eggs, which outweighed increases for livestock. Lower quotations for fluid milk reflected a reduction in the producer subsidy from 55 cents to 35 cents per hundredweight, effective May 1. Field products, off 1.2 points at 90.7 during May reflected pronounced declines for potatoes and rye. Timothy hay was somewhat firmer.

The composite index for 30 industrial material prices on the base 1926=100 recorded a gain of 0.3 to 99.9 between the weeks of April 28 and May 26. Sub-group changes showed the manufacturing series up 0.5 points to 84.1 on a firmer price for resin, while five foods stiffened 0.4 to 100.6 on higher quotations for steers. The stable group remained unchanged through the month at 120.1.

April Index of Wholesale Sales

The dollar volume of wholesale sales during April increased five per cent over the value of business transacted in April, 1943. The five per cent increase was smaller than results registered in the March and February comparisons when sales increased by nine and 14 per cent, respectively. The general unadjusted index of sales on the base 1935-1939=100, stands at 171.5 for April, 1944; 189.0 for March, 1944; and 163.8 for April, 1943. Sales for the first four months of 1944 averaged 10 per cent higher than for the similar period of 1943.

The automotive equipment trade came first in point of view of increased trading activity, recording a gain of 27 per cent. The tobacco and confectionery trade was up 12 per cent over April last year, while an increase of eight per cent was recorded by the dry goods trade. Grocery wholesalers reported a six per cent increase in sales. Minor gains of three and four per cent were recorded by the fruits and vegetables and drug trades, respectively.

Retail Trade in April

The dollar volume of retail trade in Canada during April, measured by the composite index for twelve kinds of business, increased six per cent over April, 1943, and recorded a gain of seven per cent over March of this year. Sales in the first four months of this year averaged six per cent higher than in the similar period of 1943. Unadjusted indexes, on the base 1935-1939=100, stood at 176.8 for April, 1944, compared with 155.4 for March and 167.3 for April a year ago.

Indexes of Country General Store Sales

Country general store sales averaged 11 per cent higher in April this year than in the corresponding month of last year. All regions of the country recorded increases ranging from one per cent in the northern part of Ontario to 17 per cent in southern Alberta. Sales during the first four months of this year averaged 13.6 per cent higher than in the similar period of last year. Unadjusted indexes of sales on the base 1935-1939=100 were 155.5 in April, 136.1 in March and 140.8 in April of last year.

Canadian Cotton Textile Industries in 1942

The Canadian cotton textile industries produced goods with a factory selling value of \$164,448,498 in 1942, an increase of \$18,328,266 or 12.5 per cent over that of the previous year. Employment was provided for 29,394 persons, approximately the same number as in 1941. The salaries and wages amounting to \$33,204,504 were \$2,822,621 or 9.3 per cent greater. Materials used cost \$94,554,896, an increase of \$14,806,912.

All fabrics produced, other than for use in the manufacture of tires, had a value of \$98,424,318 in 1942 as against \$85,046,881 in 1941. Grey cotton fabric was the main item and in 1942 a total of 82,282,131 pounds or 230,958,260 yards was produced with a selling value at the factory of \$35,307,480. The 1941 production was 79,491,631 pounds or 239,331,273 yards worth \$30,927,814. A very considerable yardage of this particular item goes to other mills for further processing, the amount so disposed of in 1942 totalling 126,973,902 yards.

Yarns spun for sale in 1942 had a value of \$19,857,115 compared with \$19,942,612 in 1941. Tire fabrics produced were valued at \$9,003,536 in 1942 and \$9,260,589 in 1941. For the same two years cotton thread was produced to the value of \$6,085,226 and \$5,626,947, respectively. Blankets and towels were other important items.

Woollen Textile Industries in 1942

The gross value of production in the Canadian woollen textile industries in 1942 amounted to \$101,620,652, an increase of \$19,508,448 or 23.8 per cent as compared with the previous year. The most important item of production was woven suitings, dress goods, overcoatings and cloaking of wool or containing wool, production of which amounted to 24,668,877 yards valued at \$45,374,213 as against 22,737,496 yards worth \$33,991,868 in 1941. In 1942 blankets were produced to the extent of 844,931 pairs worth \$5,332,571, the 1941 figures being 725,461 pairs valued at \$4,599,666.

Sheet Metal Products Industry in 1942

There were 185 concerns in Canada in 1942 which were occupied chiefly in the manufacture of articles from sheet iron or steel, tinplate, Canada plate or terne plate. Production by these plants was valued at \$110,442,259, an increase of 16 per cent over the total of \$95,379,236 in the previous year, which in turn was 48 per cent over the \$64,277,445 reported for 1940. The principal products were tin cans, galvanized sheets, tinplate, metal bottle caps, sheet metal building materials, steel office furniture, enamelled kitchenware, culverts, galvanized ware, steel barrels and drums, etc.

Primary Iron and Steel Industry in 1942

Factory sales of pig iron, ferro-alloys, steel ingots and castings, and finished rolled products were valued at \$232,105,755 in 1942 as compared with \$164,566,392 in 1941, an increase of 41 per cent. Ontario accounted for 69 per cent of the total for Canada, Nova Scotia 13 per cent, Quebec 15 per cent, and Manitoba, Alberta and British Columbia the remaining three per cent.

Rolling mill sales advanced 38 per cent to \$157,973,074 from \$114,056,762 in 1941. The main items sold during the year were: 474,312 tons of hot rolled bars at \$37,442,850; 385,314 tons of plates at \$30,095,754; 245,908 tons of sheets, hoops, bands and strips at \$18,398,051; 224,665 tons of rails and rail fastenings at \$10,628,149; 341,068 tons of semi-finished rolled forms, such as blooms, billets, etc. at \$16,343,624; 191,319 tons of structural shapes at \$10,540,658, and 105,475 tons of wire rods at \$4,347,189.

Output of 1,975,014 net tons of pig iron in 1942 was 29 per cent over the 1,528,053 tons reported in the previous year. Production of basic iron amounted to 1,646,001 tons of 83 per cent of the total foundry iron amounted to 159,724 tons and malleable iron to 169,289 tons. Producers' sales of pig iron totalled 387,997 tons at \$8,366,936 compared with 338,066 tons at \$7,080,242 in 1941, an increase of 15 per cent in quantity and 18 per cent in value.

Steel production advanced 15 per cent to 3,109,851 tons in 1942 from 2,712,151 tons in 1941, the output of steel ingots increasing to 2,958,906 tons from 2,593,512 tons and steel castings to 150,945 tons from 118,639 tons. Factory sales of ingots and castings totalled 286,007 tons at \$38,014,454. Production of ferro-alloys in 1942 amounted to 209,017 net tons, a gain of two per cent over the 204,354 tons reported for 1941.

Food Chains in Canada in 1941

Total sales of the food chains in Canada in 1941 amounted to \$177,406,000, representing an increase of 39.1 per cent over the total dollar volume obtained by all food chains in 1930. During the same period the maximum number of stores operated by the food chains dropped from 2,352 in 1930 to 1,707 outlets in 1941. Food chains secured 27.4 per cent of the total sales made by all grocery, combination and meat and fish market stores in Canada, being slightly greater than in 1930.

Car Loadings on Canadian Railways

Car loadings for the week ended May 27 decreased to 67,967 cars from 71,233 in the previous week but were 5,631 cars above loadings in the corresponding week of last year. May 24th was observed as a holiday in many industries. Grain loadings, although down from the previous week, were heavier than in 1943 by 3,246 cars.

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Reports Issued During the Week

1. Canadian Grain Statistics (10 cents).
 2. The Cement Products Industry, 1942 (15 cents).
 3. Summary of Cold Storage Reports, 1943 (25 cents).
 4. Flour Mills in Canada, 1944 (\$1.00).
 5. Monthly Review of Dairy Production, May (10 cents).
 6. The Sheet Metal Products Industry, 1942 (25 cents).
 7. The Woollen Textile Industries, 1942 (25 cents).
 8. Car Loadings on Canadian Railways (10 cents).
 9. Indexes of Country General Store Sales, April (10 cents).
 10. Advance Preliminary Statement of Stocks of Canadian Butter, Cheese and Eggs in Principal Cities, June 1, 1944 (10 cents).
 12. Food Chains in Canada, 1941 (25 cents).
 13. The Primary Iron and Steel Industry, 1942 (25 cents).
 14. The Cotton Textile Industries, 1942 (35 cents).
 15. Telegraphic Crop Report, Canada (10 cents).
 16. Current Trends in Food Distribution, April (10 cents).
 17. Price Movements, May (10 cents).
 18. Monthly Indexes of Wholesale Sales, April (10 cents).
 19. Monthly Indexes of Retail Sales, April (10 cents).
 20. Motor Carriers, Freight - Passenger, 1942 (25 cents).
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