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Economic Conditions During Four Months of 1944

The trend of economic conditions averaged higher in the first four months of the present year than in any other similar period in history. The index of the physical volume of business on the pre-war base was 244, a gain of nearly six per cent over the same period of 1943. While reaction was indicated in April from the high levels of the first quarter, the average was a new maximum. A marked advance was recorded from the early months of 1940 until the end of last year.

A marked increase was recorded in the deposit liabilities of the chartered banks, the average for the first three months of the year having been \$4,286 million compared with \$3,615 million, a gain of 18.6 per cent. Gains have been recorded in bank deposits from 1938 to the present time. While recessions were shown at the beginning of January and of February the average for the first three months of this year was a new high.

The index of the physical volume of business rose about 14 points in the first four months of the present year over the same period of 1943. Mineral production showed an increase of 7.4 per cent. Gold receipts at the Mint, however, showed a reduction of 22 per cent, the total for the first four months of this year having been 1,025,000 fine ounces. The decline in coal production was 4.5 per cent, the total having been 5,878,000 tons against 6,148,000.

The index of manufacturing production rose 3.4 per cent to 300, the indicator being expressed as the percentage of the average for the period from 1938 to 1939. Marked increases were shown in a considerable number of components. Cattle slaughterings, for example, recorded a gain of nearly 25 per cent to 572,000 head. The gain in hog slaughterings was 67 per cent from 2,156,000 head to 3,601,000. The production of factory cheese recorded a marked gain over the same period of last year. The output of steel ingots and pig iron is still showing gains over the same period twelve months ago. The total steel produced was 1,008,000 short tons against 987,915 in the same period last year. The gain in pig iron production was 8.4 per cent to 612,000 tons.

The tentative computation of national income during the first four months of 1944 was \$2,845 million compared with \$2,581 million in the same period of 1943, a gain of 10.2 per cent.

Employment Situation at Beginning of April

Industrial employment showed curtailment at the beginning of April. The general decline which was rather below-average in extent, took place largely in manufacturing, logging and construction, from which some 5,300, 8,900 and 4,400 persons, respectively, were released by the co-operating firms. Coal mining also was quieter. The loss in manufacturing as a whole was contra-seasonal, the second in succession of the kind; there was a falling-off in the production of both durable and non-durable manufactured goods.

Heightened activity was indicated in the remaining industrial groups, the greatest expansion being in transportation and trade, with smaller additions in communications and services. The general increases, however, like the decreases were not on a large scale; the gain of 3,050 workers in trade was the greatest. A contraction in industrial activity had also been noted at April 1, 1943, but the loss then recorded was somewhat smaller. With the exception of April 1, 1943, the latest index was higher than at that date in any other year.

Data were tabulated by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics from 14,447 firms whose employees numbered 1,817,600 at April 1 compared with 1,829,857 at the beginning of March, a reduction of 12,257 persons or 0.7 per cent. The total on April 1 included 1,343,618 males and 473,982 females. The weekly payrolls distributed by these establishments amounted to \$58,766,821, being 0.5 per cent lower than the disbursements reported at March 1. The general per capita weekly earnings rose from \$32.27 at March 1 to a new high of \$32.33 at April 1. Last year the average was \$31.14.

The shrinkage in employment lowered the crude index on the base 1926=100 from 181.7 on March 1 to 180.5 as compared with 180.6 at the beginning of April in 1943.

Canada's Merchandise Exports in May

Canada's merchandise export trade was of record proportions in May, the value being \$368,357,000, an increase of \$117,750,000 over last year's corresponding total of \$250,-607,000. This was an excess of \$64,700,000 over the previous monthly record established in July 1943 of \$303,600,000. Domestic exports during the five months ended May aggregated \$1,403,110,000 as compared with \$1,028,531,000 in the similar period of last year, an increase of \$374,579,000.

Commodity exports to the United Kingdom in May were of the value of \$140,249,000 as compared with \$95,475,000 in the same month of last year, while the aggregate for the five months of this year was \$524,832,000 compared with \$344,273,000 a year ago. Shipments to the United States in May were valued at \$131,865,000 compared with \$88,815,000 in May of last year, the five month valuation standing at \$526,466,000 as compared with \$430,889,000.

May exports to Italy were valued at \$19.864,000, expanding the five month total to \$69,527,000. None was sent a year ago. British India was sent Canadian goods to the value of \$17,892,000 in May compared with \$18,770,000 and in the five months \$57,547,000 compared with \$66,197,000. Exports to Russia in May totalled \$13,155,000 compared with \$4,097,000 and in the five months \$37,577,000 compared with \$8,767,000. Exports to Egypt in May amounted to \$11,093,000 compared with \$10,981,000, the five month valuation being \$50,655,000 compared with \$63,280,000.

Exports to other leading countries in May were as follows, totals for May of last year being in brackets: Australia, \$7,771,000 (\$410,000); Newfoundland, \$4,460,000 (\$3,180,000); French Possessions, \$3,973,000 (\$540,000); Switzerland, \$2,756,000 (\$1,520,000); Trinidad and Tobago, \$2,121,000 (\$1,085,000); Jamaica, \$1,592,000 (\$909,000); Eire, \$1,456,000 (\$300,000); British South Africa, \$1,424,000 (\$5,910,000); British Guiana, \$1,189,000 (\$776,000); Iraq, \$777,000 (\$2,567,000); Brazil, \$517,000 (\$661,000); British West Africa, \$442,000 (\$1,253,000).

The following were amongst the leading commodities exported in May, values for May of last year being in brackets; wheat, \$45,060,000 (\$25,351,000); wheat flour, \$10,311,-000 (\$6,043,000); seeds, \$7,808,000 (\$153,000); fishery products, \$3,884,000 (\$4,524,000); eggs, \$2,553,000 (\$1,618,000); meats, \$27,823,000 (\$11,017,000); planks and boards, \$6,033,000 (\$4,467,000); wood pulp, \$9,224,000 (\$8,520,000); newsprint paper, \$14,106,000 (\$11,561,000); motor vehicles and parts, \$54,660,000 (\$42,407,000); chemicals, \$8,557,000 (\$6,775,000); cartridges and shells, \$33,700,000 (\$22,100,000); guns, rifles and firearms, \$26,500,000 (\$16,200,000).

Canada's International Tourist Trade

The expenditures in Canada of travellors from other countries are estimated at \$89,500,000 in 1943 and the expenditures of Canadians on travel outside of Canada at \$37,200,000. These figures compare with estimates of foreign expenditures in Canada at \$81,900,000 in 1942 and \$111,000,000 in 1941, and estimated expenditures of Canadians on travel outside of Canada of \$27,700,000 in 1942 and \$21,000,000 in 1941. The net expenditures in Canada were \$52,300,000 compared with \$54,200,000 in 1942 and \$90,000,000 in 1941.

There were particularly pronounced wartime influences upon travel in 1943 and in 1942. In both years the outstanding change in travel between the United States and Canada was the contraction in the automobile traffic with accompanying growth in the volume of travel by train. The decline in automobile traffic, of course, reflects a reduction in pleasure travel and is a direct result of the scarcity of gasoline and tires.

The expenditures in Canada of travellers from the United States are estimated at \$87,000,000 in 1943 compared with \$79,000,000 in 1942 and \$107,000,000 in 1941. The expenditures of rail travellers accounted for 56 per cent of the total in 1943 compared with 41 per cent in 1942 and 26 per cent in 1941, while the expenditures of auto travellers declined from 50 per cent in 1941 to 33 per cent in 1942 and 20 per cent in 1943. These changes indicate the alteration in the character of United States travel to Canada in 1942 and 1943. To some extent the increase in rail travel reflects a growing volume of business and official travel.

Movements of civilians to north-western Canada in connection with United States Government activities in that region constituted a large part of the increased rail movement. A considerable part of the increased rail movement, however, occurred in eastern and central Canada and was doubtless due principally to the substitution of rail

for automobile transportation.

The decline in the volume of automobile travel greatly exceeded the growth in the number of entries by rail, however. But since the average expenditures of rail travellers are higher than the average expenditures of motorists total expenditures by American travellers in Canada were higher in 1943 than in 1942.

The expenditures in Canada of travellers from overseas countries are estimated at about \$2,500,000 compared with about \$2,900,000 in 1942 and \$4,000,000 in 1941. The expenditures of travellers from Newfoundland are included in these amounts.

The expenditures of Canadian travellers in the United States in 1943 are estimated at \$33,700,000 compared with \$24,400,000 in 1942 and \$18,300,000 in 1941. The principal factors influencing this group of expenditures have been the restrictions upon pleasure travel which were first introduced in July, 1940. In order to conserve Canada's supply of United States dollars for more essential uses, the government placed restrictions at that time upon pleasure travel involving the use of United States dollars. Since then Canadian expenditures in the United States have mainly represented expenditures for such purposes as business trips, travel for health reasons, etc. The low levels of expenditures reached since July, 1940 are a reflection of this policy.

The major portion of the expenditures in the United States in 1943 were by persons travelling by train. These accounted for \$22,000,000 or 65 per cent of the total. The expenditures of persons travelling by automobile continued to decline in 1943 and were less than 10 per cent of the expenditures of this class of traffic before the war. Although the expenditures of persons travelling by bus, boat, aeroplane and other means were higher in 1943 than in 1942 these groups of expenditures were each relatively light.

The expenditures of Canadian travellers in overseas countries, including Newfoundland, are estimated at about \$3,500,000 in 1943.

Food Commodities in Storage on June 1

Creamery butter holdings in storage and in transit in Canada on June 1 amounted to 17,423,590 pounds. As would be expected from the decreased cumulative production this year in Eastern Canada, stocks were less than last year's June 1 holdings of 19,779,316 pounds, but they were greater than May 1 stocks of 9,358,927 pounds. The June 1 average for the five years 1939-43 was 16,344,000 pounds. The increase in holdings was equivalent to 24.8 per cent of the May production. Last year the increase was equivalent to 27.4 per cent of the May production.

Cheese stocks, in storage and in transit, totalled 33,561,298 pounds as compared with 19,122,212 last month. Last year the figures were 25,259,868 pounds, but no "in transit" data were obtained at that time.

Total shell eggs, held and in transit were 429,818 cases as compared with 230,991 cases last year and 360,676 cases a month ago. Frozen eggs totalled 29,725,308 pounds compared with 21,394,628 on May 1 and 11,718,161 on June 1 last year. All eggs, shell and frozen, converted to shell in cases were 1,201,904 cases for June 1, 1944, 535,359 on June 1, 1943, and 916,471 last month.

Total poultry holdings were 11,727,241 pounds as compared with only 2,722,721 pounds a year ago and 16,193,779 pounds on May 1 this year. All kinds, with the exception of broilers, showed lower holdings than last month, but very large increases over last year's stocks.

Canadian pork on hand, fresh, frozen and oured, totalled 86,270,575 pounds. Last year at the same date the total was 53,954,995 pounds and last month the figures were 99,311,587 pounds, so that the out-of-storage movement was 13 million pounds during May, 1944. Canadian beef also showed a sharp reduction to 25,049,562 pounds from 31,133,561 last month, but again, a decided increase over last year, when the figures were 15,176,-239 pounds. Canadian veal totalled 5,621,906 pounds as compared with 4,125,544 pounds a year ago and 4,600,428 last month. Canadian mutton and lamb stocks were 3,794,613 pounds, a decrease from last month when the holdings were 5,607,949 pounds, but a large increase over the stocks on June 1, 1943, which totalled 722,538 pounds.

Holdings of frozen fresh fish were 18,171,536 pounds, almost two million pounds more than the stocks of a year ago which were 16,213,542 pounds. Last month's holdings were 17,610,504 pounds. Frozen smoked stocks were 1,687,779 pounds while last year they were 1,129,943 pounds and last month 1,454,923 pounds.

Apple stocks were reduced to 73,917 bushels as compared with 120,826 bushels last year. The June 1, 1944 holdings were a reduction of 150,000 bushels from last month.

The summary of fruit holdings showed 390,716 pounds of frozen fruit in consumer packages, a decrease from last month's 671,138 pounds; 7,966,150 pounds of frozen straight, frozen in sugar and frozen pulp, as compared with 9,157,483 pounds a month ago: and fruit in sulphur dioxide or in benzoate of soda 11,533,564 pounds and 15,836,896 on May 1. The vegetable summary gave 430,873 pounds of vegetables in consumer packages as compared with 568,410 pounds last month; frozen and held for re-processing 149,945 pounds for June 1 and 197,639 for May 1; and vegetables in brine 187,033 pounds as compared with 296,920 pounds last month.

Stocks of Canadian fresh vegetables were low. There were 41,749 tons of potatoes as compared with 104,342 tons last month, but the holdings were larger than last year when they totalled only 24,861 tons. Carrots on hand were 874 tons Canadian and 743 tons imported.

Crop Conditions in the Prairie Provinces

Weather conditions have favoured the dovelopment of grain crops in western Canada during the past week. Moisture supplies are ample in most districts and excessive in a few. There is still need of good rains in some southern areas of Alberta where only light scattered showers fell during the past seven days, while rain will be needed soon in western Saskatchewan if the present good condition of crops is to be maintained. The parts of Manitoba appear to be well supplied with moisture for the time being and there has been some loss from flooding in sections of the Red River Valley.

Early sown wheat and coarse grain are well above ground and the wheat crop appears to have stooled heavily except in the dry sections of southern Alberta where it is in the shotblade stage at a height of nine inches. Some fields of flaxseed and feed grain were seeded only the past week due to heavy rains earlier in the month, while some reseeding resulted from weed growth. Row crops in Manitoba are looking healthy except on heavy wet soils where cultivation has not been possible.

Insect damage appears to be quite severe in Saskatchewan where wireworms and cutworms are thinning out wheat, cats and barley on summerfallow. Grasshoppers are also
more numerous and control measures are now necessary in some sections of both Easkatchewan
and Alberta. Sweet clover weevil continues to attack seedlings and even mature stands in
southern Saskatchewan.

The range situation in southern Alberta continues serious and copious rains are needed to grow grass and mature an average crop. Ranchers fear that unless relieved by torrential rains during the summer months there will be heavy liquidation of breeding stock before winter sets in.

Stocks of Canadian Wheat in Store

Stocks of Canadian wheat in store or in transit in North America on June 8 totalled 275,956,126 bushels, a decrease of 120,896,031 bushels from last year's corresponding total of 396,852,157 bushels. Stocks this year included 261,334,877 bushels in Canadian positions and 14,621,249 in United States positions.

Marketings of Wheat and Coarse Grains

Deliveries of wheat from the farms in the Prairie Provinces during the week ended June 8 amounted to 5,869,663 bushels as compared with 3,587,981 in the same week of last year. During the elapsed portion of the crop year which commenced August 1, 1943, deliveries from western farms totalled 242,055,251 bushels compared with 217,872,158 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 8, totals for the previous week being in brackets: oats, 1,950,029 (2,815,303) bushols; barley, 529,467 (994,774); rye, 22,254 (28,090); flaxseed, 25,552 (22,707).

Sales of Farm Implements and Equipment

Government restrictions on the manufacture and sale of farm implements and equipment are reflected in sales figures for 1943. Domestic sales of new equipment mainly at wholesalo prices totalled \$29,796,560, down 41 per cent from the \$50,461,523 recorded for 1942 and approximately on a par with the volume of business transacted in 1937.

Declines were recorded for all regions of the country. Sales were as follows, comparisons with 1942 being in brackets: Maritime Provinces, \$1,088,830 (\$1,610,056); Quebeo, \$3,133,424 (\$4,532,984); Ontario, \$7,359,877 (\$13,672,486); Manitoba, \$3,446,587 (\$6,548,306); Saskatchewan, \$7,643,580 (\$12,523,365); Alberta, \$6,357,970 (\$10,338,469); British Columbia, \$766,292 (\$1,235,857).

The declines in dellar volume below 1942 for the bread commodity groups according to purpose stand at 41.9 per cent for planting and seeding machinery, 24.2 per cent for tillage machinery, 49.2 per cent for having machinery, 54 per cent for harvesting machinery, and 51.6 per cent for tractors and engines.

Railway Revenues in March

Canadian railways carned \$67,123,259 in March as compared with \$62,811,454 in March of last year. Operating expenses increased from \$46,657,689 to \$50,728,086 and the operating income from \$11,098,152 to \$11,767,706. Freight revenue increased 6.2 per cent and passenger revenue by 7.9 per cent. For the three months ended March gross revenues increased from \$166,515,435 in 1943 to \$185,872,806 and the operating income increased from \$24,527,323 to \$27,759,960.

Gross revenues of Canadian lines of the Canadian National Railways increased from \$32,017,900 in March 1943 to \$33,492,700. Operating expenses increased from \$25,188,969 to \$26,386,168 and operating income increased from \$5,981,879 to \$6,690,819. Revenues during the three months ended March totalled \$95,707,000 in 1943 to \$104,828,000 and operating income increased from \$13,876,321 to \$15,812,260.

Gross revenues of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company in March increased to \$27,-200,480 from \$24,137,430 in 1943 or by 12.7 per cent. Operating expenses increased to \$20,228,973 from \$17,772,086 and the operating income to \$3,888,868 from \$3,617,419. For the first quarter of this year gross revenues amounted to \$75,132,863 and the operating income to \$9,767,033 as compared with \$62,696,743 and \$8,677,442, respectively, in 1943.

Civil Aviation in February

Revenue passongers travelling by aircraft during February increased to 25,170 from 17,977 in the corresponding month of last year, or by 40 per cent. Freight traffic was down by 16 per cent, but mail increased by 7.8 per cent. Revenues of Canadian licensed carriers increased from \$1,081,418 in February 1943 to \$1,307,342, but operating expenses increased from \$1,107,184 to \$1,493,617, and the deficit increased from \$25,766 to \$186,276.

Wholesale Trade in Canada in 1941

Not sales of the 24,627 establishments active in wholesale trade in Canada in 1941 aggregated \$5,221,520,800, according to a preliminary compilation based on the census of merchandising and service establishments. Stocks of merchandise on hand at the end of the year were valued at \$507,563,600, of which \$481,841,300 represented the value of owned inventories and \$25,722,300, the value of merchandise held on a consignment basis. A total of 117,333 full-time employees were engaged in wholesale trade in 1941, of whom 94,571 were male and 22,762 were female. Total salaries, wages and commissions paid to full-time employees amounted to \$188,284,200 in 1941.

Nearly two-thirds of the wholesale trade of the Dominion in 1941 was transacted in the provinces of Quebec and Ontario. Quebec obtained 32.56 per cent of the total trade while Ontario's share amounted to 32.87 per cent. Net sales in 1941 were as follows by provinces: Prince Edward Island, \$13,192,800; Nova Scotia, \$152,119,400; New Brunswick, \$89,009,300; Quebec, \$1,699,874,700; Ontario, \$1,716,227,900; Manitoba, \$572,859,100; Saskatchewan, \$280,551,600; Alberta, \$320,657,400; British Columbia, \$377,028,600.

Service and limited-function wholesalers comprised the most important group in the wholesale field in 1941, both in point of view of number of establishments and in total

sales volume. Such wholesalers operated 9,780 establishments or nearly 40 per cent of the total number and obtained net sales of \$2,307,506,200, or about 44 per cent of the total for all types. Manufacturers' sales branches and offices were next in importance in point of trade volume with sales comprising about 23 per cent of the grand total. Agents and brokers ranked third with sales of \$926,353,300.

Canada's Birth Rate in 1942

Canada's birth rate in 1942 at 23.4 per thousand population was the highest recorded since 1930 when it was 23.9, according to provisional figures compiled by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. In 1941 the rate was 22.2. The average rate for the five years 1926 to 1930 was 24.1, for the five years 1931 to 1935, 21.4, and for the five years 1936 to 1940, 20.4 per thousand population.

All provinces except Saskatchewan revealed increased birth rates during 1942 as compared with 1941. Rates were as follows by provinces, with those for 1941 in brackets: Prince Edward Island, 22.2 (21.6); Nova Scotia, 26.1 (24.1); New Brunswick, 27.2 (28.8); Quebec, 28.0 (26.8); Ontario, 20.4 (19.1); Manitoba, 21.2 (20.3); Saskatchewan, 20.1 (20.6); Alborta, 22.7 (21.7); British Columbia, 20.4 (18.4).

Weekly Earnings of Wage-Earners in Manufacturing Industries

Average weekly earnings of male wage-earners employed in the manufacturing industries of Canada amounted to \$24.78 in 1940, an increase of \$2.55 or 11 per cent as compared with 1939. Due to an increase of 2.8 hours in the average number of hours worked per week, average hourly earnings advanced from 46.2 cents in 1939 to 48.7 cents in 1940, an increase of nearly 5.4 per cent. Annual earnings also advanced from \$1,076 in 1939 to \$1,202 in 1940, an increase of 11.7 per cent.

Fomale wage-earners received on an average of \$13.49 weekly in 1940 as compared with \$12.78 in 1939, an increase of 71 cents or 5.6 per cent. Hourly earnings advanced to 28.5 cents from 28.3 cents, an increase of 0.7 per cent. Annual wages increased to an average of \$654 from \$619, or by 5.7 per cent. The average working week was 47.3 hours as compared with 45.2 in 1939.

Consumption of Electric Energy in 1942

The production of electric energy by central electric stations in Canada in 1942 amounted to 37,355,179,000 kilowatt hours compared with 33,317,663,000 in 1941. The amount consumed by Canadian industry represented 72.7 per cent of the whole. Metal smelters and refineries consumed 20.4 per cent of the total cutput, pulp and paper mills 17.8 per cent, and electro-chemical works 5.9 per cent. Residential consumption accounted for 7.3 per cent of the total, commercial lighting 3.5 per cent, street lighting 0.5 per cent, exports to the United States 6.5 per cent and line losses 9.3 per cent.

Production of Leather Footwear in April

Production of leather footwear in Canada in April amounted to 2,908,348 pairs as compared with 3,340,343 in the previous menth and 2,918,389 in the corresponding month of last year. During the four months ended April production totalled 11,917,173 pairs as compared with 11,512,748 in the similar period of last year.

Stocks of Raw Hides and Skins in April

Stocks of raw cattle hides held by tanners, packers and dealers in Canada at the end of April amounted to 466,385 as compared with 446,734 at the end of March and 465,525 skins on the corresponding date of last year. Calf and kip skins totalled 419,311 compared with 619,536 on April 30 last year, goat and kid skins 72,316 compared with 67,371, horse hides 31,732 compared with 45,926, and sheep and lamb skins 80,830 dozen compared with 68,361 dozen.

Stocks of United States Grain in Canada

Stocks of United States grain in Canada on June 8 increased to 2,783,945 bushels from 2,251,591 on the corresponding date of last year. Stocks of wheat and soybeans

were increased, while corn was lower. Wheat stocks rose to 2,094,174 bushels from nil and soybeans to 112,636 bushels from mile Corn docreased to 577,135 bushels from 2,228,065. There was no rye in store as against 23,526 bushels a year ago.

Car Loadings on Canadian Railways

Car loadings for the week ended June 3 increased to 70,579 cars from 67,952 in the previous week which contained the non-statutory holiday of May 24 and from 66,917 in the corresponding week last year. Total loadings in the eastern division increased from 43,384 cars last year to 44,595 and in the western division from 23,533 to 25,984 cars.

PLEASE NOTE

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 4. Canada's International Tourist Trade, 1943 (25 cents).
- 5. Canadian Grain Statistics (10 cents).
- 6. Preliminary Annual Report on Vital Statistics, 1942 (25 cents).
- 7. Stocks of Raw Hides and Skins, April (10 cents). 8. Production of Leather Footwear, April (10 cents).
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- 17. Summary of Canada's Exports, May (10 cents).
- 18. Canada's Domestic Exports by Principal Countries, May (10 cents).
- 19. Weekly Earnings of Wage-Earners Employed in the Manufacturing Industries of Canada, 1940 (20 cents).
 20. Car Loadings on Canadian Railways (10 cents).
- 21. The Employment Situation, April 1, 1944 (10 cents).
- 22. Economic Conditions in Canada during the First Four Months of 1944 (10 cents).
- 23. Area, Production and Value of Field Crops, 1940, and Area, 1941, Alberta (10 cents) 24. Cold Storage Holdings of Meat and Lard, June 1 (10 cents). 25. Cold Storage Holdings of Fish, June 1 (10 cents).

- 26. Stocks of Dairy and Poultry Products, June 1 (10 cents). 27. Stocks of Fruit and Vegetables, June 1 (10 cents).



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