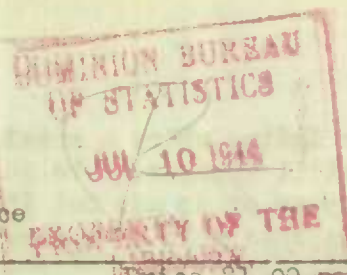


WEEKLY BULLETIN

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World Wheat Situation

With a billion-bushel wheat crop in sight in the United States and a promising outlook for the wheat harvest in Canada, apprehension regarding wheat supplies for the crop year 1944-45 has been largely dispelled. The unpredictable weatherman has brought about a transformation in both countries and, in place of the drought which threatened the whole continent less than three months ago, we now have complaints of flooding.

The winter wheat crop is presently being harvested in the United States and early returns confirm the large estimate of production. This part of the crop is practically made and in another month or so the spring wheat harvest will be in full swing in the United States. The Canadian crop, however, has quite a long way to go and has still to face the critical period of growth, but as matters now stand, the general situation is good.

Based on June 1 conditions the United States winter wheat crop was estimated at 714,000,000 bushels compared with 530,000,000 bushels harvested in 1943. Spring wheat production was placed at 320,000,000 bushels or some 13,000,000 bushels greater than last year's harvest. This makes a total crop of 1,034,000,000 bushels which, if secured, will surpass the record crop of 1,008,000,000 bushels harvested in 1915.

It is much too soon to interpret Canadian conditions in terms of bushels but with a substantial increase in wheat acreage this year, maintenance of present crop prospects could only mean better-than-average production in the Prairie Provinces. Canadian farmers expressed their intention to increase wheat acreage by nearly 4,000,000 acres over the 1943 seeded area, but actual acreage seeded will not be known until figures are compiled for release in an official report on July 21.

Both Canada and the United States will have sizeable carry-over stocks of old wheat on July 31 when the current crop year closes, and if crops of better-than-average proportions are obtained on this continent, North America will again be in a position to maintain its large live-stock population and contribute liberally to export shipments during the coming twelve months.

The southern hemisphere countries of Australia and Argentina are busy seeding their new wheat crops for harvest in November-December this year. Both expect to show some increase in acreage compared with a year ago, and both report generally favourable seeding conditions. The drought in parts of Australia has been relieved to some extent but the lack of fertilizer is an unfavourable factor in the Australian picture. Some fertilizer is being imported from South Africa and the shortage may yet be overcome.

In the old world, crop conditions appear still to be generally favourable. The British growers are reported to have seeded 3,000,000 acres to wheat for the 1944 harvest, or nearly double the pre-war average, and though the spring was unusually dry there are no serious complaints about the condition of the new wheat crop. Prospects in neutral countries, principally Eire, Spain, Portugal and Turkey are favourable on the whole. Both Spain and Portugal report recent improvement but both countries are likely to remain on an import basis for the crop year 1944-45.

The position in occupied countries appears also to be favourable with the possible exception of Roumania where growth is backward and the deficiency of fertilizer is evident in many of the fields. The harvest in North Africa is believed to have yielded a fair surplus and this can probably be used for the feeding of people in Italy. The south Italian crop will also be available to the United Nations instead of the Nazis. This is largely a durum wheat area.

There is a further threat to the food supplies of the Nazis in 1944 with the Allies moving up through northern Italy, where a large crop is usually produced, and now attacking in France where the harvest has commenced in southern areas. Should the Nazis lose these crops, plus what they have already lost in the Ukraine and other parts of Russia, their food supply position in the next twelve months might not be the happy one it has been during the past four years.

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In India, where a wheat crop of some 387,000,000 bushels has recently been gathered, there still appears to be shortage of supplies. Conditions are not as critical as they were a year or so ago but it is expected that imports will continue to be necessary and food supplies will be generally tight over the next year.

Acreage Planted to Tobacco

A preliminary survey indicates that approximately 88,400 acres have been planted to all types of tobacco this year, an increase of 17,260 acres or 24.3 per cent over the 71,140 acres planted in 1943. This area exceeds by a slight margin the acreage goal set at the Dominion-Provincial Conference in December 1943 and is almost as large as the 92,300 acres planted in 1939, the year of record tobacco production in Canada.

Increases in acreage are common to all types of tobacco, the greatest expansion being found in the acreage of flue-cured tobacco in Ontario where approximately 68,000 acres are under cultivation this year as compared with 55,700 acres in 1943, an increase of 22 per cent. The burley acreage has been increased by 54 per cent and there are also increases of 10 per cent in the flue-cured acreage in Quebec, 32 per cent in cigar leaf and 20 per cent in the pipe types.

Long-time average yields, 1927 to 1943, applied to the acreage estimates for 1944 would produce approximately 69,200,000 pounds of flue-cured tobacco, 11,500,000 pounds of burley, 3,500,000 pounds of cigar leaf and 2,300,000 pounds of dark and pipe types, a total crop of approximately 86,500,000 pounds. If calculated on the basis of average yields for the past five years, 1939-43, another 10,000,000 pounds of flue-cured and 1,000,000 pounds of burley tobacco could be added to the prospective crop.

Weather conditions were generally favourable throughout the seedbed and planting periods, with the result that the crop is well established in all provinces. The flue-cured crop in Ontario has an exceptionally good stand which should result in a high yielding crop. The stand of the burley crop is only fair to good owing to considerable injury from wireworms and other insect pests.

Final estimates of the 1943 tobacco crop show a total production of 69,103,900 pounds grown on 71,140 acres as compared with 89,699,400 pounds from 78,730 acres in 1942. The gross farm value of the 1943 crop is estimated at \$19,646,200 which compares with \$21,539,100 in 1942. Average prices to growers were higher for all types than the corresponding prices paid for the 1942 crop.

Business Operations in May

While other fundamental factors indicating the trend of economic conditions averaged higher in May than in the preceding month, the index of the physical volume of business receded from 239.5 to 236.0. The month under review showed the second consecutive decline from the intermediate high point of 247.8 reached in March. The historical maximum of the index at 248.8 was recorded in December. The gain in May over the same month of last year when the standing was 231.8 amounted to about 1.4 per cent. The present dimensions of the index at 236 indicates directly the marked expansion in productive operations since the pre-war period, the index having been based on the average for the five years from 1935 to 1939.

Two of the main components recorded advances in May over the preceding month, considerable declines having been shown in mining, manufacturing and construction. The index of mineral production receded from 247.5 in April to 238.8 in the month under review. Coal production, however, showed an increase at 1,290,000 tons against 1,236,000. A majority of the metals and minerals included in the index recorded recession in the latest month for which statistics are available.

The index of manufacturing production receded from 291.3 in April to 286.4. The index was also slightly more than two points below that of May last year. The historical maximum of 308.4 was reached in December, 1943. The index of manufacturing operations based on crop products, rose from 150.6 in April to 153.4. The gain was occasioned by heavy releases of tobacco and a gain in employment in rubber factories. Despite the gain in the operations of the meat-packing industry the index based upon the manufacture of animal products showed a marked decline.

The textile industry was less active despite a gain in the consumption of raw cotton. The forestry industry recorded minor gain in activities, an increase having been shown in the output of newsprint and in the outward shipments of lumber and

shingles. Steel production at 263,431 tons compared with 260,825 recorded a considerable gain after seasonal adjustment. Further decline was shown in the index for the iron and steel group generally.

The new business obtained by the construction industry recorded an increase less than normal for the season, the index receding from 140 to 109. Electric power production was particularly heavy in May, the index rising 12 points to 165. The output was 3,585 million kilowatt hours against 3,270 million.

The distribution index rose moderately from 176.2 to 178.6. Distribution of commodities through retail and wholesale outlets was at a lower position in the latest month. Exports amounted to \$371 million against \$287 million and the index was at a higher position after the seasonal and price adjustment. Imports rose about \$22 million to \$159 million, but the adjustments reduced the index to a somewhat lower position.

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

	1944	
	May	April
Physical Volume of Business	236.0	239.5
Industrial Production	263.8	270.0
Mineral Production	238.8	247.5
Gold Receipts	78.3	88.7
Coal Production	131.8	130.7
Manufacturing	286.4	291.3
Flour Production*	179.5	205.4
Rolled Oats Production*	70.9	75.7
Inspected Slaughtering	212.8	207.9
Cattle	124.3	122.2
Sheep	129.1	152.8
Hogs	285.5	277.2
Creamery Butter	128.5	129.3
Factory Cheese	203.4	303.3
Tobacco	155.3	142.3
Cigar Releases	158.2	163.5
Cigarette Releases	155.0	140.5
Boots and Shoes Production*	128.7	143.9
Textiles	139.0	143.1
Cotton Consumption	142.8	132.7
Forestry	119.3	115.3
Newsprint	98.0	91.8
Iron and Steel	569.5	574.3
Pig Iron Production	241.0	252.9
Steel Production	231.0	208.2
Construction	109.2	140.2
Contracts Awarded	121.5	161.8
Building Permits	146.7	132.0
Electric Power	165.0	153.1
Distribution	178.6	176.2
Marketings -		
Grain and Live Stock Marketings	217.6	305.5
Grain Marketings - Country Elevators	238.8	352.7
Wheat	269.1	461.8
Oats	1099.0	937.3
Live Stock Marketings	125.3	100.7
Cattle	122.7	97.2
Calves	101.3	92.5
Hogs	165.6	124.4
Sheep	58.5	90.1
Cold Storage Holdings, 1st of following month	241.1	240.8
Butter	221.0	200.1
Cheese	205.0	120.3
Beef	193.2	212.3
Pork	206.9	234.3
Mutton	334.0	223.8
Poultry	228.1	229.4
Lard	542.1	605.0
Veal	189.4	195.8

* Preceding Month

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June 1 Cost of Living Index

The Dominion Bureau of Statistics cost of living index on the base 1935-1939=100 declined from 119.2 on May 1 to 119.0 on June 1. The food index recorded an unusual decrease from 131.7 to 131.1, affected by lower prices for potatoes, butter, eggs and onions. Cabbage, carrots and lemons were moderately higher. Seasonal influences in June are generally upward, and in the preceding three years, the food index has registered gains of 2.8, 1.9, and 1.0 points. The only other change in June was for homefurnishings and services which moved from 118.5 to 118.4. Other budget group indexes remained unchanged as follows: rent, 111.9; fuel and lighting, 112.5; clothing, 121.5; and miscellaneous items, 109.0.

Index Numbers of Wholesale Prices in June

The average price level for Canadian farm products reflected a slightly firmer tone in June as indicated by a gain of 0.4 to 102.1 in the index number on the base 1926=100 between the weeks of May 26 and June 30. Field products moved 0.4 points higher to 91.1, due to upturns for raw leaf tobacco, potatoes and hay. These outweighed a minor decline in rye. In the animal products section an increase of 0.3 to 120.4 was due to stronger livestock quotations.

Moving above the 1926 base figure of 100 for the first time since 1926 the composite index for 30 industrial materials stiffened 0.5 points to 100.4 between the weeks of May 26 and June 30. Among sub-groups, the manufacturing materials series registered an increase of 0.8 to 84.9 on continued strength in rosin quotations, while narrowly higher prices for steers and hogs were responsible for a gain of 0.3 to 100.9 in the index for five food materials. A drop of five cents per ton for imported bituminous coal was reflected in a decline of 0.1 to 120 for the stable price section.

Canada's External Trade in May

Canada's external trade, excluding gold, was of record proportions in May, the value being \$529,687,000 as compared with \$424,168,000 in the previous month and \$407,700,000 in the corresponding month of last year. The aggregate for the five months of this year was \$2,134,780,000, exceeding last year's corresponding total of \$1,729,886,000 by \$404,894,000.

The value of merchandise of Canadian origin exported in May was \$368,357,000, the highest valuation recorded in any month in Canada's history. The value in the previous month was \$282,891,000 and in May of last year, \$250,607,000. Domestic exports during the five months ended May aggregated \$1,403,110,000 compared with \$1,028,531,000 in the similar period of last year, an increase of \$374,579,000. Foreign exports in May were valued at \$2,492,000 and in the five months ended May, \$19,620,000.

Commodity imports in May were valued at \$159,038,000 as compared with \$137,487,000 in the previous month and \$154,393,000 in the corresponding month of last year. The total for the five months ended May was \$712,050,000 as compared with \$692,922,000 in the same period of last year, an increase of \$19,128,000.

Duties collected in May totalled \$16,279,000 compared with \$14,255,000 in April and \$16,207,000 in May of last year, the total for the five months ended May amounting to \$75,825,000 as compared with \$62,469,000 in the like period of 1943.

Canada's Merchandise Imports in May

Canada's merchandise imports in May were valued at \$159,038,000 as compared with \$154,393,000 in the corresponding month of last year, the total for the five months ended May aggregating \$712,050,000 as compared with \$692,922,000 in the similar period of last year. The United States was the leading source of supply, imports from that country in May amounting to \$127,041,000 compared with \$123,968,000 in May of last year, and during the five months ended May \$586,727,000 compared with \$567,313,000 a year ago.

May imports from the United Kingdom were valued at \$13,044,000 compared with \$12,527,000 a year ago, the value for the five months ended May totalling \$45,050,000 as compared with \$55,575,000 in the same period of last year. Imports from other leading countries in May were as follows, totals for May 1943 being in brackets: British India, \$3,957,000 (\$3,166,000); British West Africa, \$1,448,000 (\$30,000); Colombia, \$1,425,000 (\$178,000); Mexico, \$1,258,000 (\$907,000); Barbados, \$915,000 (\$419,000); Argentina, \$321,000 (\$1,019,000); Jamaica, \$880,000 (\$927,000); Venezuela, \$861,000 (\$27,000); Australia, \$839,000 (\$740,000); Guatemala, \$676,000 (\$134,000); Fiji, \$572,000 (\$105,000).

The following were amongst the leading commodities imported in May, values for May of last year being in brackets: fruits, \$6,217,000 (\$3,470,000); vegetables, \$2,955,000 (\$1,914,000); cotton, \$8,356,000 (\$6,704,000); flax, hemp and jute, \$2,358,000 (\$3,255,000); wool, \$2,879,000 (\$3,133,000); rolling mill products, \$4,323,000 (\$6,093,000); engines and boilers, \$5,681,000 (\$5,531,000); farm implements, \$3,704,000 (\$1,487,000); machinery, other than agricultural, \$7,560,000 (\$13,268,000); vehicles, \$10,112,000 (\$7,893,000); electrical apparatus, \$6,817,000 (\$4,553,000); coal, \$8,964,000 (\$8,490,000); petroleum products, \$9,535,000 (\$8,992,000); chemicals, \$8,043,000 (\$6,294,000).

Claims for Unemployment Insurance Benefits

Local offices of the Unemployment Insurance Commission received 4,654 claims for unemployment insurance benefit during May. This represents a considerable decrease from the 6,403 claims filed in the previous month, but remains well above May of last year when 2,027 were filed.

An indication of the number claiming and drawing benefit at the end of the month is given by those signing the live unemployment register. These numbered 7,329 during the last six working days of May, including 5,490 males and 1,839 females. In April, 12,053 signed the register, including 9,517 males and 2,536 females.

A total of 4,741 claims were received at insurance offices for adjudication during May compared with 2,135 a year ago. The adjudication of most of these, together with claims pending from the previous month, resulted in 4,421 being considered entitled to benefit during the month compared with 1,943 in May of last year.

During May, 5,222 persons commenced receiving benefit compared with 2,167 in May 1943. There were however, 8,873 persons whose benefit payments carried over from previous months, making a total of 14,095 who received a total of \$473,709 for 240,232 compensated unemployed days. This compares with 4,848 persons who received a total of \$129,132 for 68,720 days last May.

The average duration of the unemployment compensated was 17 days in May compared with 14.2 in May, 1943. The average amount paid per beneficiary was \$33.61 during May as compared with \$26.64, while the average amount paid per compensated day of unemployment was \$1.97 in May this year and \$1.88 a year ago.

Financing of Motor Vehicle Sales in May

Financing of new and used motor vehicle sales in May totalled 4,002 units with a financed value of \$1,722,416. The number of vehicles financed was 12 per cent lower than the 4,563 vehicles financed in May a year ago, while an increase of two per cent was recorded over the dollar volume in May 1943 when the total was \$1,683,186. Included in the May 1944 totals were 266 new vehicles financed to the extent of \$702,381.

Used vehicle financing declined 17 per cent in number and 11 per cent in dollar volume, 3,736 units being financed for \$1,420,035 compared with 4,480 transactions involving \$1,587,080 in May of last year. There were 837 new vehicles financed in the first five months of 1944 as compared with 288 new vehicles financed in the same period of last year. Used vehicles financed in the five month period numbered 13,959 compared with 14,416 in 1943.

The number of used vehicles financed was lower in all regions of the country in May as compared with May, 1943. The total for Manitoba and Saskatchewan combined was 48 per cent below May of last year. A decrease of 44 per cent was recorded for the Maritime Provinces and a 37 per cent decline occurred in Alberta. Decreases of a lesser extent occurred in other sections of the country, declines amounting to 15 per cent in British Columbia, 10 per cent in Quebec and four per cent in Ontario.

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Recession in Industrial Employment at May 1

A recession in industrial employment was recorded at the beginning of May when the 14,539 establishments furnishing information to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics reported the release of 23,320 persons, reducing their staffs by 1.3 per cent to 1,796,340. The number laid off was approximately the same as at the beginning of May last year. This was the fifth successive monthly reduction. Although recent wartime factors have tended to cut across normal seasonal movements, it is probable that the June 1 survey will show a resumption of the upward course of employment which was halted at December 1 of last winter. Without exception, general expansion in employment has been indicated at the first of June in the years since 1920.

The slackening in industrial employment at the beginning of May was accompanied by a relatively larger falling-off in the payrolls disbursed on or about that date, for services rendered in the week preceding. The latest reported aggregate of salaries and wages in the eight leading industries was \$57,958,026 as compared with \$58,897,682 paid at the beginning of April; this decrease of 1.6 per cent was due in part to the diminution in employment, but also resulted from lessened overtime work, while industrial disputes likewise considerably affected the situation. The per capita earnings fell from \$32.37 at April 1 to \$32.26 at the beginning of May. The May 1, 1943, figure had been \$30.59.

To a considerable extent, the curtailment in employment at May 1 this year took place in logging, in which it was seasonal; however, the decrease of 23,378 men was decidedly above average for the time of year, doubtless reflecting the return of unusually large numbers of workers to the farms, following a winter of exceptionally great activity in the woods. There was also an important reduction of 11,400 persons in manufacturing; this decline, which was contra-seasonal, was the largest loss indicated in any month since the outbreak of war, with the exception of those at January 1 of 1940 and 1944.

Several factors were reported as contributing to the recession, the more important of which were the return of farmers to agriculture, the military call-up of men in certain categories, completion of contracts and shortages of materials. The greatest curtailment took place in iron and steel plants, which released 10,121 employees. The number laid off in the durable manufactured goods was 10,752, as compared with 744 in the production of light manufactured goods. In the latter, textiles showed a considerable decrease, exceeding the average decline at May 1. Food factories, on the other hand, afforded more employment.

Among the remaining main industrial groups, mining showed a substantial reduction, which was above-average for the beginning of May. The trend was upward in communications, transportation, construction, services and trade. The gain of 6,757 persons in construction was greatest, although it was not equal to the expansion usually indicated at May 1.

Based on the 1926 average as 100, the general index of employment at the beginning of May this year was 178.2 compared with 180.5 at April 1. The figure at May 1, 1943, was also 178.2. The seasonally-adjusted index fell from 191.2 in the preceding month to 185.0 at the beginning of May.

Crop Conditions in Canada

Increased soil moisture and warm weather have greatly improved the general crop conditions throughout the Maritime Provinces. Grains are growing rapidly and hay and pastures have greatly improved. The quality and quantity of the Nova Scotia apple crop is considerable above that of last year. Recent rains have benefited growing crops in Quebec although they came too late for the hay crop in many areas. Pastures have also improved materially. Generally speaking average crops are now in prospect in this province. Ontario has had fine weather and prospects are generally good to excellent. Haying is now in full swing and the wheat harvest will be starting shortly. In southwestern Ontario particularly crop conditions have been excellent and all crops show good promise. Corn, roots, peas, beans and other late crops have made good progress and high yields are in prospect.

Crop prospects in the three Prairie Provinces were well maintained, on the whole, during the past week. Too much rain fell in parts of Manitoba with considerable loss to row crops in the Red River Valley, potato crops around Winnipeg, and sugar beet crop areas south of Winnipeg. Cereal crops in Manitoba continued to make good progress and the early-sown grain is headed. Reports from Saskatchewan indicate that crops are two

weeks ahead of last year, taking the province as a whole, but there remain a number of dry spots and conditions of shallow rooting which call for more rain. Moisture is urgently needed in the extreme south-western areas and north along the Alberta boundary. The outlook in Alberta is still good. Some deterioration has taken place in south-eastern part of the province as the result of heat and drought, while the lack of rainfall is being felt also in the Peace River area. Flood damage to the extent of 15 per cent is reported from the Edmonton district. Growing conditions generally in British Columbia have been excellent during the past two weeks and moisture conditions are satisfactory in all but a few areas. A good raspberry crop is now being harvested.

Visible Supply of Canadian Wheat

Stocks of Canadian wheat in store or in transit in North America at midnight on June 29 totalled 282,502,419 bushels, a decrease of 118,149,438 bushels from last year's corresponding total of 400,651,857 bushels. This year's stocks included 265,751,313 bushels in Canadian positions and 16,751,106 bushels in United States positions.

Marketings of Wheat and Coarse Grains

Deliveries of wheat from farms in the three Prairie Provinces during the week ending June 29 amounted to 8,614,096 bushels as compared with 8,989,032 in the previous week. During the elapsed portion of the crop year which commenced August 1, 1943, deliveries from the farms totalled 271,919,404 bushels compared with 241,265,142 in the corresponding period of the previous crop year.

The following quantities of coarse grains were delivered from farms in the Prairie Provinces during the week ending June 29, totals for the previous week being in brackets: oats, 2,618,193 (2,276,157) bushels; barley, 901,824 (994,549); rye, 20,302 (19,295); flaxseed, 24,083 (36,220).

Fruit and Vegetable Crop Estimates

There has been a considerable reduction in the outlook for the fruit crops in Eastern Canada since the May survey. The prospects in British Columbia, however, still remain very bright. A very promising bloom, particularly in Ontario failed to set as was expected and a somewhat smaller over-all harvest is now anticipated. The apple crop is now estimated at 15,580,000 bushels, which is 21 per cent larger than the 1943 harvest of 12,892,200 bushels, and 14 per cent larger than the ten-year 1934-43 average of 13,633,900 bushels.

A 19 per cent reduction in the pear crop is now expected, which will bring the crop to 517,900 bushels compared with 636,800 bushels a year ago. The present crop will be 15 per cent smaller than the ten-year 1934-43 average of 607,100 bushels. The first estimate of plum and prune crops is only slightly below that of the 1943 harvest of 363,300 bushels and is at present set at 342,500 bushels. The current crop, however, is 12 per cent larger than the ten-year 1934-43 average of 311,900 bushels.

The peach production is expected to show an 80 per cent increase over the very poor crop of last season and is estimated at 1,138,400 bushels. The final estimate of the 1943 crop is 633,000 bushels, while the ten-year 1934-43 average is 1,124,400 bushels. The cherry crop will be slightly smaller than that of 1943 at 210,100 bushels compared with 216,700 bushels, a reduction of 3 per cent. This year's crop, however, will be 11 per cent smaller than the ten-year 1934-43 average of 238,400 bushels.

The downward trend in strawberry production evidenced since 1939 continues, and the present crop is estimated at 9,653,300 quarts, a reduction of 40 per cent from the 1943 harvest of 16,082,400 quarts. The ten-year 1934-43 average is 23,475,800 quarts. Raspberry production will also be below that of last season, the crop being estimated at 8,432,100 quarts compared with 9,521,300 quarts. The present estimate is 8 per cent below the ten-year 1934-43 average of 9,156,000 quarts.

The grape harvest is expected to show a 6 per cent increase over the previous crop and is estimated at 57,085,500 pounds. The 1944 crop will be 16 per cent above the ten-year 1934-43 average of 49,130,400 pounds. A reduction of 3 per cent in loganberry production from last season brings the crop to 1,278,000 pounds. The current estimate is substantially below the ten-year 1934-43 average of 1,582,700 pounds. A substantial increase in the prospects for the apricot crop over that of last year brings

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the first estimate to 116,500 bushels compared with 24,900 bushels in 1943. The current estimate is 81 per cent greater than the ten-year 1934-43 average of 64,200 bushels.

The outlook for vegetable crops throughout the Dominion is very satisfactory. Growth to date has been good and with few exceptions damage from adverse weather conditions has been small. The acreage planted in most areas shows a substantial increase over that of last season. Incomplete returns of a survey recently made indicates that there will be an over-all increase of 16 per cent over last year in the acreage of the four major canning crops, peas, beans, corn and tomatoes under contract with the canners. By crops, the percentage increases are as follows: peas 15, beans 10, corn 13, and tomatoes 24. With the exception of snap beans in Ontario the contracted acreages are larger in all provinces.

Stocks of Butter, Cheese and Eggs

Storage stocks of creamery butter in the principal cities of Canada on the morning of July 1 were 21,137,372 pounds compared with 7,565,648 on June 1 and 26,157,759 on the corresponding date of last year. Cheese stocks totalled 30,639,803 pounds compared with 17,191,116 on June 1 and 24,872,567 on July 1, 1943. Stocks of shell eggs amounted to 8,054,345 dozen compared with 6,849,901 on June 1 and 3,870,579 a year ago, while frozen eggs on hand totalled 26,462,909 pounds compared with 22,044,284 last month and 14,597,760 last year.

Production of Wheat Flour in May

Production of wheat flour in Canada in May amounted to 1,962,264 barrels as compared with 2,099,996 in the corresponding month of last year. During the ten months of the present crop year the output totalled 20,676,964 barrels as against 19,749,123 in the similar period of the previous crop year, an increase of 927,841 barrels.

The quantity of wheat ground in May was 8,619,952 bushels as compared with 9,276,153 in May of last year, bringing the total for the ten months of the crop year to 91,090,072 bushels compared with 87,916,004 in the same period of the previous crop year. In the coarse grain group, oats, barley and buckwheat grindings were higher, while corn and mixed grain were lower.

Indexes of Retail Sales in May

The amount of money spent by customers in retail stores in May was nine per cent greater than in the corresponding month of last year, according to index numbers compiled by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The general index of sales on the base 1935-1939=100 stands at 176.7 for May this year as compared with 162.7 in May, 1943. Sales during the five months of this year averaged seven per cent above the volume of business transacted in the similar period of last year.

A marked gain of 20 per cent in department store sales contributed in large measure to the increase in the trade in May. Food stores, which constitute the other important component in the general index, had an increase of only two per cent. Radio and electrical store sales were down by three per cent, while gains ranging from one per cent for variety stores to 14 per cent for hardware stores were recorded.

Wholesale Grocery Sales in May

Wholesale grocery sales increased 21 per cent in May over the volume of business transacted in May of last year, according to data received from 75 of the larger wholesale houses in Canada. Sales in May this year were valued at \$21,447,000 as compared with \$17,741,000 in the corresponding month of last year. During the five months of this year sales averaged 11.6 per cent higher than in the same period of last year.

Indexes of Country General Store Sales

Sales in country general stores averaged nine per cent higher in May than in the corresponding month of last year, with gains being recorded in all regions of the country. The unadjusted index of sales on the base 1935-1939=100 was 172.3 in May compared with 161.1 in May of last year. Sales during the five months ended May averaged 10.4 per cent higher than in the similar period of last year.

Reduction in Deaths Due to Motor Vehicle Accidents

A very considerable reduction in the number of deaths due to motor vehicle accidents was recorded in Canada in 1942, according to final figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The number was 1,409 as compared with 1,852 in 1941 and 1,723 in 1940. The death rate from this cause at 12.1 per 100,000 population was the lowest since 1935 and compares with 16.1 in 1941 and 15.2 in 1940.

All provinces except Saskatchewan and British Columbia showed decreases in the number of deaths from motor vehicle accidents in 1942 as compared with the preceding year. Totals were as follows by provinces, with the figures for 1941 in brackets: Prince Edward Island, 8 (9); Nova Scotia, 72 (104); New Brunswick, 52 (89); Quebec, 363 (485); Ontario, 610 (835); Manitoba, 52 (79); Saskatchewan, 58 (45); Alberta, 62 (78); British Columbia, 132 (128).

Saskatchewan had the lowest provincial death rate from motor vehicle accidents in 1942, namely, 6.4 per 100,000 population and Manitoba stood next with a rate of 7.0. The highest provincial rate was 16.0 in British Columbia followed by Ontario with a rate of 15.9.

There was a large increase in 1942 in the number of deaths due to air transport accidents when 509 were reported as compared with 357 in 1941. The number of suicides in 1942 was 839 compared with 896, homicides 113 compared with 130, accidental drownings 991 compared with 1,018, railway accidents 322 compared with 277, street car and other road transport accidents 140 compared with 156, and deaths in mines and quarries 158 compared with 199.

Output of Central Electric Stations in May

Central electric stations produced 3,584,515,000 kilowatt hours in May, which was the greatest output in any month to date. The total for the previous month was 3,277,198,000 kilowatt hours and in May of last year 3,511,201,000. During the five months of this year production totalled 17,203,640,000 kilowatt hours compared with 16,311,543,000 in the similar period of last year.

Reports Issued During the Week

1. Advance Preliminary Statement of Stocks of Canadian Butter, Cheese and Eggs in the Principal Cities of Canada, July 1 (10 cents).
2. Central Electric Stations, May (10 cents).
3. The Employment Situation, May (10 cents).
4. Telegraphic Crop Report, Canada (10 cents).
5. Gainfully Occupied by Industry and Sex for Urban Centres of 10,000 and Over, 1941 (10 cents).
6. Price Movements, June (10 cents).
7. Deaths from External Violence, 1942 (10 cents).
8. Trade of Canada, May (10 cents).
9. Car Loadings on Canadian Railways (10 cents).
10. Tobacco Crop Report (10 cents).
11. Monthly Review of the Wheat Situation (10 cents).
12. Production of Asphalt Roofing, May (10 cents).
13. Sales of Asphalt Roofing, May (10 cents).
14. Monthly Indexes of Country General Store Sales, May (10 cents).
15. Monthly Financing of Motor Vehicle Sales, May (10 cents).
16. Imports by Principal Countries, May (10 cents).
17. Summary of Canada's Imports, May (10 cents).
18. Statistical Report on the Operation of the Unemployment Insurance Act, May (10 cents).
19. Fruit and Vegetable Crop Report (10 cents).
20. Gainfully Occupied by Industry, Sex, Age, Conjugal Condition, Etc., Prince Edward Island, 1941 (10 cents).
21. Current Trends in Food Distribution (10 cents).
22. The Brass and Copper Products Industry, 1942 (25 cents).
23. Canadian Grain Statistics (10 cents).
24. Monthly Indexes of Retail Sales, May (10 cents).
25. Canadian Milling Statistics, May (10 cents).



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