

WEEKLY BULLETIN

Dominion Bureau of Statistics
Department of Trade and Commerce



Vol. XII - No. 4

Ottawa, Saturday, January 29, 1944

Price \$1.00 per year

Third Estimate of Field Crops in 1943

Canada's wheat harvest in 1943 is placed at 293,680,000 bushels of the value of \$298,191,000, or more than one dollar per bushel at the farm, according to the third estimate of production issued by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. This compares with the 1942 wheat crop still provisionally estimated at 556,134,000 bushels, with a farm value of 69 cents per bushel and a total gross farm value of \$385,133,000.

The production of oats in 1943 is now estimated at 482,000,000 bushels compared with approximately 652,000,000 in 1942, while the barley crop is placed at 215,562,000 bushels compared with 259,156,000 bushels in the previous year. The rye crop of slightly more than 7,000,000 bushels amounted to less than one-third of the 1942 production, but the flaxseed crop of nearly 18,000,000 bushels was almost 3,000,000 bushels greater than in 1942, due entirely to the expansion in acreage seeded to this oil-bearing crop.

As in the case of wheat, these other crops show a much higher value per bushel at the farm in 1943 than in 1942, but the valuation of last year's crops is based on prices during the five months August-December, 1943. This valuation will require revision to take account of price changes during the first seven months of 1944. The estimates of 1943 production are also subject to revision at the close of the crop year when marketings and disposition data are available.

Production of peas and beans in 1943 shows a decline compared with 1942 despite increased acreage planted to both crops. Weather conditions were chiefly responsible for the smaller yields and the production of peas is now placed at 1,591,000 bushels compared with 1,692,000 bushels in 1942. The crop of field beans is estimated at 1,407,000 bushels compared with 1,553,000 harvested in 1942.

Potato crops suffered severely from blight but a somewhat larger acreage and an excellent crop in New Brunswick more than offset the smaller yield per acre and the total crop in 1943 was 43,541,000 cwt. compared with 42,882,000 cwt. produced in 1942.

Forage crops were generally lighter in 1943 compared with 1942, although the production of hay and clover and alfalfa was somewhat greater. Sugar beet acreage was reduced in 1943 and so was the acreage in shelled corn. Both crops suffered from weather conditions, part of the seeded acreage being washed out by heavy spring rains.

The total gross farm value of all the field crops produced on 60,345,600 acres in 1943 was \$1,104,065,000 compared with \$1,179,073,000, the estimated value of crops produced on 60,809,200 acres in 1942. New crops grown in commercial quantities in western Canada in 1943 which contributed to farm income were sunflower seed and rapeseed. These oil-bearing seeds, together with soybean, now occupy a place in the list of Canada's field crops.

Production of Butter and Cheese in 1943

Creamery butter production in Canada reached the all-time high of 312,309,928 pounds in 1943. In 1942, 284,591,372 pounds were produced. For the month of December the creamery make fell from 14,686,679 to 12,390,860 pounds in 1943, a decline of 15.6 per cent. Dairy butter production, which had been estimated at 78,525,000 pounds in 1942, declined to 55,407,000 pounds in 1943. The production of whey butter has been estimated at 2,110,522 pounds, making a total of 369,827,000 pounds as compared with 365,798,483 pounds in the preceding year.

It will be observed that the 1943 make of creamery butter was almost 10 per cent above that of the previous year, whereas dairy butter declined 29.4 per cent so that the total production of all butter, including creamery, dairy and whey butter, was within one per cent of that produced a year ago. Owing to the decline in creamery butter during the month of December, the production for that month represented only 50.3 per cent of the domestic disappearance of 24.6 million pounds; whereas in 1942 the production represented 61.4 per cent of the domestic disappearance, amounting to 23.9 million pounds.

The Dominion Bureau of Statistics states that since the situation as now revealed would seem to point to a reduction in the milk supply in the next few months, it may be expected that the decline in the creamery make indicated in December will continue for some considerable time, and that still larger quantities will have to be drawn from storage to make up the deficiency. However, it is pointed out that the stocks of January 1, 1944, amounted to nearly 47,000,000 pounds as against 23,000,000 pounds at the same date a year ago.

Cheddar cheese production in 1943 amounted to 162,344,504 pounds as against 206,215,228 pounds in 1942. This decline of 21.3 per cent was common to all provinces except Saskatchewan where a very small quantity was produced. While cheese production has shown a steady decline throughout 1943 as compared with the corresponding months of the previous year, it is interesting to observe that the December make moved up from 3,807,718 pounds in 1942 to 4,659,141 pounds in 1943, an increase of 22.4 per cent. This increase took place in three provinces only, New Brunswick, Quebec and British Columbia. In Quebec nearly two million pounds were produced as compared with approximately 800,000 in December, 1942. This increase was attributed largely to the subsidy on cheese which went into effect on October 1.

Fluid milk continues to absorb a considerable proportion of the total supply. The weather during the month of December was exceedingly favourable for dairy production with abnormally high temperatures recorded in many parts of the Dominion. The production of milk in November fell 4.6 per cent, but three of the provinces, Prince Edward Island, Alberta and British Columbia, produced slightly more milk than in the same month of the preceding year. Fluid sales continued to absorb a large proportion of the supply, 28 per cent being used for this purpose in November as compared with 24 per cent in November, 1942.

Visible Supply of Wheat

Stocks of Canadian wheat in store or in transit in North America at midnight on January 20 totalled 350,775,584 bushels, including 320,885,451 in Canadian positions and 29,890,133 in United States positions. On the corresponding date last year, stocks totalled 467,163,330 bushels.

Marketings of Wheat and Coarse Grains

Farmers in western Canada delivered 5,418,366 bushels of wheat from the farms during the week ending January 20 as compared with 4,794,451 in the previous week. Marketings during the elapsed portion of the crop year which commenced August 1, 1943, totalled 133,076,470 bushels as compared with 155,795,743 in the similar period of the previous crop year.

The following quantities of coarse grains were also delivered from farms in the western provinces during the week ending January 20, totals for the previous week being in brackets: oats, 2,345,705 (2,074,708) bushels; barley, 1,574,256 (1,480,493); rye, 262,381 (253,590); flaxseed, 68,537 (82,839).

Production of Concentrated Milk

The production of all items of concentrated whole milk and by-products during December was 11,247,379 pounds compared with 14,059,283 in the corresponding month of 1942. Output during the year 1943 aggregated 260,460,498 pounds compared with 265,263,039 in 1942.

Fewer Abandoned Farms in Canada

According to the Dominion census of agriculture, the area of abandoned or idle farms in Canada in 1941 was 5,023,541 acres as compared with 5,289,166 in 1931, a reduction of five per cent. The number of these farms in 1941 was 32,518, or 295 fewer than in 1931. The value placed on this farm land was \$22,290,114 as compared with \$36,450,278 in 1931 and on buildings \$5,380,988 compared with \$6,358,346, revealing decreases of 38.9 per cent and 15.4 per cent, respectively.

The number of abandoned or idle farms was as follows by provinces in 1941, corresponding totals for 1931 being in brackets: Prince Edward Island, 434 (376); Nova Scotia,

2,707, (3,064); New Brunswick, 1,804 (1,622); Quebec, 5,315 (2,747); Ontario, 5,563 (4,572); Manitoba, 3,190 (6,476); Saskatchewan, 7,791 (5,183); Alberta, 4,009 (6,640); British Columbia, 1,705 (2,133).

The percentage decrease in the total number of abandoned or idle farms was 0.9 during the ten year period. Nova Scotia, Manitoba, Alberta and British Columbia recorded decreases of 11.7, 50.7, 39.6 and 20.1 per cent, while Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario and Saskatchewan showed increases of 15.4, 11.2, 93.5, 21.7 and 50.3 per cent, respectively.

Building Permits Issued in December

The value of building permits issued by municipalities reporting to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics in December was \$5,606,463, including new construction valued at \$4,432,778 and additions, alterations and repairs totalling \$1,173,685. In the corresponding month of 1942, permits were issued to the value of \$6,623,080. During the calendar year 1943 the value was \$79,524,631 compared with \$104,233,928 in 1942.

Permits were issued for the construction of 522 new housing units during December, including 102 in Quebec, 116 in Ontario, 132 in Alberta and 137 in British Columbia. Most of these were single dwellings. Permits for 196 conversions were also issued during the month, 105 of which were for flats and apartments. Conversions in Ontario totalled 102, British Columbia 40 and Quebec 29. In December, 1942, 718 permits were issued for new housing units and 77 conversions.

Production of Leading Minerals

Canada's coal production during the eleven months ended November 1943 was reduced to 16,177,213 tons from 17,125,330 in the similar period of 1942, gold to 3,389,381 fine ounces from 4,478,323 and cement to 7,075,401 barrels from 8,796,994, according to preliminary figures issued by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

Production of other leading mineral products during the eleven months of 1943 was as follows, totals for 1942 being in brackets: clay products, \$5,908,291 (\$6,628,687); feldspar, 23,246 (20,222) tons; gypsum, 395,925 (538,733) tons; lime, 876,942 (811,256) tons; natural gas, 39,147,687,000 (40,319,035,000) cubic feet; commercial salt, 313,268 (298,344) tons; silver, 15,935,612 (18,983,238) fine ounces.

Financing of Motor Vehicle Sales in December

New and used motor vehicles financed in Canada during December totalled 2,400 units with a financed value of \$1,001,202, being five per cent lower in number but 23 per cent higher in dollar volume than the 2,533 vehicles financed for \$812,028 in December, 1942. There were 137 new vehicles financed in December for a total of \$184,874. Preliminary totals for the year 1943 showed 1,075 new motor vehicles financed as compared with 7,398 in 1942. Used vehicles financed during 1943 numbered 38,449 as compared with 58,912 units.

In the used vehicle field, the number of units financed in December declined by nine per cent, but the dollar volume involved was seven per cent greater than in December, 1942. These comparisons reflect a substantial increase in the average financed value per vehicle. Sharp contrasts are revealed in results for individual regions.

Among eastern sections of the country, an increase of 30 per cent in Quebec was outstanding. Ontario recorded a 16 per cent decline, while used vehicle financed in the Maritime Provinces dropped 43 per cent. Used cars financed in Alberta were 25 per cent greater, while declines of two and 30 per cent respectively occurred in British Columbia and in combined figures for Manitoba and Saskatchewan.

Wholesale Prices in December

The index number of wholesale prices on the base 1926=100, edged upward a further 0.1 to 102.5 in December, due mainly to the effect of authorized increases for imported and domestic bituminous coal, and to small increases in the vegetable products group. The advance in the general level of wholesale prices has amounted to 5.7 per cent over the past twelve months, while the wartime increase has been 41.8 per cent.

Canadian farm products prices rose to 104.6 in December for a gain of 0.4 points. The increase in the index since December last year amounted to 20.1 per cent which compared with a wartime gain of 79.1 per cent. This latter increase was accentuated by the very low levels for grains obtaining in August, 1939. If this comparison were based on July 1939 price levels, the increase would approximate 66 per cent.

Central Electric Stations in December

Central electric stations produced 3,559,509,000 kilowatt hours in December, which was a new high monthly output. In December 1942 the total was 3,252,435,000 kilowatt hours. Consumption of primary power also reached a new record level of 3,195,434,000 kilowatt hours as compared with 2,933,611,000 in December, 1942.

Production for the year 1943 was 40,377,649,000 kilowatt hours as compared with 37,199,182,000 in 1942. This was an increase of 8.5 per cent over 1942 and 42.4 per cent over 1939. The large increase during the year was in Quebec where production increased from 20,753,337,000 to 23,461,661,000 kilowatt hours, or by 13 per cent. This was 85 per cent of the total increase for Canada.

Consumption of primary power increased to 35,718,763,000 kilowatt hours from 32,506,330,000 in 1942 or by 9.9 per cent. Quebec industries consumed over 50 per cent of this and accounted for 87 per cent of the total increase for Canada. The enormous consumption of electric energy by aluminium plants was the chief factor in this heavy consumption in Quebec.

Exports to the United States amounted to 2,545,038,000 kilowatt hours as compared with 2,453,739,000 in 1942, the increase being in secondary power which rose from 1,018,788,000 to 1,115,578,000 kilowatt hours.

Canadian Fur Goods Industry in 1942

The product of the Canadian fur goods industry was valued at \$32,147,114 in 1942. This was the largest ever recorded, exceeding the previous maximum established in 1941 by 21 per cent. Fur coats comprised the bulk of the product. Those for women were valued at \$22,292,344 as compared with \$17,412,557 in 1940. Fur collars were valued at \$1,285,514, scarves \$1,011,833 and dressed skins \$1,788,544.

Paints, Pigments and Varnishes Industry

Manufacturers of paints, pigments and varnishes reported production valued at \$45,764,802 in 1942 as against \$40,183,625 in 1941, an increase of 13.9 per cent. Output of some of the leading items was as follows in 1942: 8,588,044 gallons of ready mixed paints at \$19,689,092; 3,168,641 gallons of varnishes at \$5,524,192; 1,949,246 gallons of enamels at \$5,933,096; 1,947,658 gallons of cellulose lacquers at \$4,765,277.

Coke and Gas Industry in 1942

A new high record was established by plants producing coke and illuminating and fuel gas in Canada in 1942, the value being \$55,788,491 as compared with \$50,818,720 in 1941, an increase of 9.7 per cent. The 1942 output included 3,265,549 tons of coke valued at \$27,711,673 at the works, 68,839,292 M cubic feet of gas, of which 67,755,949 M. cubic feet valued at \$23,466,041 were sold or used.

Canadian Cotton Textile Industries

A very considerable advance was recorded by the Canadian cotton textile industries in 1941 when the gross value of production aggregated \$146,120,000, representing an increase of 26.4 per cent over the 1940 valuation of \$115,559,000. The number of employees increased to 29,600 from 26,017 and the amount paid in salaries and wages to \$30,382,000 from \$25,363,000. Materials were valued at \$79,748,000 as compared with \$60,976,000.

Fabrics, chiefly of cotton and cotton mixtures comprised the principal output of the industry, the value in 1941 amounting to \$85,046,881 as compared with \$67,092,065 in 1940. Grey cotton fabric was produced to the extent of 239,331,273 yards valued at \$30,917,814 compared with 205,291,604 yards valued at \$24,635,953 in 1940.

Yarns spun for sale had a valuation of \$19,942,612 compared with \$17,372,603 in 1940. Tire fabrics produced were valued at \$9,260,589 compared with \$7,652,178; and cotton thread to the value of \$5,626,947 as compared with \$4,621,612. Other important items produced included sheets and pillow slips, towels, blankets, curtains and comforters.

This industry is centred in the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec. Of the 120 establishments engaged in this type of manufacture, 57 were located in Ontario, 52 in Quebec, one in Nova Scotia, three in New Brunswick, three in Manitoba and four in British Columbia.

Population of Alberta by Racial Origin, Etc.

The Dominion Bureau of Statistics has published a bulletin which classifies the population of Alberta and of the cities of Calgary and Edmonton by racial origin, showing for each origin the number of males and females by conjugal condition, age, religious denomination, birthplace, immigration and citizenship, official language and mother tongue, and schooling, as revealed by the 1941 Dominion census.

This bulletin forms part of a series on racial origin to be issued separately for each province as final figures are compiled. This is the sixth in the series, those for Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Manitoba and Saskatchewan having been made public earlier. Those for Quebec, Ontario and British Columbia are in the course of preparation and should be available at an early date.

The term "racial origin" as used in the census has a combined biological, cultural and geographical implication. In certain cases all three aspects are fairly clearly defined; in others the classification means little more than geographical origin, being distinct from birthplace classification, however, mainly in that it includes not only immigrants, but also their descendants. Hence the Canadian born, as well as the foreign born, are included in the number of persons of various racial origins.

As a general rule, racial origin in the census is traced through the father. In the case of the Canadian aborigines the origin reported was Indian or Eskimo. Persons of the black, yellow or brown races were enumerated as Negro, Chinese, Japanese, Hindu, Malayan, etc., respectively, thus indicating the branch within the distinct ethnic stock to which such persons belonged.

Department Store Sales in December

Sales in Canadian department stores in December were 23 per cent higher than in November, but recorded a decline of one per cent from December, 1942. Unadjusted index numbers on the base 1935-1939=100 stood at 239.7 in December, 195.7 in November and 241.6 in December, 1942. Dollar volume of sales during the calendar year 1943 was one per cent greater than in 1942.

Car Loadings on Canadian Railways

Car loadings for the week ended January 15 amounted to 67,477 cars as against 61,489 in the previous week and 60,924 in the corresponding week last year. The index number on the base 1935-1939=100 rose to 152.3 from 139.0 for the previous week and 130.3 in 1943. Loadings in the eastern division increased from 39,556 cars in 1943 to 42,364 and in the western division from 21,368 cars to 25,113.

Stocks of United States Grain in Canada

Stocks of United States grain in Canada on January 20 amounted to 1,508,064 bushels as compared with 3,598,626 on the corresponding date last year. Stocks of wheat increased to 1,222,252 bushels from nil a year ago; while corn decreased to 256,569 bushels from 3,575,078.

Reports Issued During the Week

1. Canadian Grain Statistics (10 cents).
 2. Paints, Pigments and Varnishes Industry, 1942 (25 cents).
 3. Coke and Gas Industry, 1942 (25 cents).
 4. Fur Goods and Fur Dressing Industries, 1942 (25 cents).
 5. Prices & Price Indexes, December (10 cents).
 6. Financing of Motor Vehicle Sales, December (10 cents).
 7. Abandoned or Idle Farms, Canada, 1941 (10 cents).
 8. Department Store Sales, December (10 cents).
 9. Production of Concentrated Milk, December (10 cents).
 10. Racial Origin by Conjugal Condition, Age, Etc., Alberta, 1941 (10 cents).
 11. Box, Basket and Crate Industry, 1942 (10 cents).
 12. Central Electric Stations, December (10 cents).
 13. The Grain Situation in Argentina (10 cents).
 14. The Cotton Textile Industries, 1941 (35 cents).
 15. Building Permits, December (10 cents).
 16. Canada's Leading Mineral Products, November (10 cents).
 17. Car Loadings on Canadian Railways (10 cents).
 18. The Musical Instrument Industry, 1942 (15 cents).
 19. Third Estimate of Field Crops, 1943 (10 cents).
 20. Monthly Dairy Review, December (10 cents).
-



1010729725