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DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS OCT 30 1944 PROPERTY OF THE

Business Operations in September

The recession in the volume of business operations in evidence since the early months of the year was continued in September. The index of the physical volume of business according to preliminary calculations showed minor decline from the standing of 233.1 recorded for August.

The factors indicating the trend of mineral production showed recession in the latest month for which statistics are available. The increase in the production of coal was less than normal for the season, the output having been 1,396,169 tons against 1,377,228. A minor decline was shown in the gold receipts at the Mint, the total in September having been 227,962 fine ounces.

The index of the output of the flour milling industry rose from 146.8 in August to 157.5. The releases of tobacco were considerably heavier in September than in the preceding month, the release of cigars having increased from 15.2 million to 16.5 million. The recession in the release of cigarettes was less than normal for the season. The operations of the meat packing industry were at a lower level for September, the index receding from 176 to 167. The decline in the output of factory cheese was greater than normal for the season while the index of creamery butter rose slightly from 114.2 to 114.9. Canned salmon exports were at a much higher level in September.

The raw cotton used by the textile industry showed recession in September from 12.9 million pounds to 11.6 million. A considerable increase was recorded in the exports of planks and boards, one of the principal factors indicating the trend of operations in the forestry industry. The outward shipments were 189 million feet in September against 168 million in the preceding month. The decline in the output of newsprint was slightly greater than normal for the season, while declines were also shown in the exports of woodpulp and shingles.

The new business obtained by the construction industry was slightly greater in September, the total in contracts awarded having been $25.3 million compared with $24.2 million. The distribution of commodities through retail and wholesale outlets was at a considerably higher level in the latest month for which statistics are available.

Business Indicators for September compared with August and September, 1943

		September 1944	August 1944	September 1943
Physical Volume of Business	1935-39=100	*	233.1	236.7
Cost of Living	1935-39=100	118.8	118.9	119.4
Factory Cheese Production	pounds	22,841,908	25,762,734	23,406,584
Creamery Butter Production	pounds	30,977,151	37,060,623	33,199,425
Newsprint Production	tons	244,209	262,695	251,827
Contracts Awarded	$	25,287,600	24,151,400	18,570,600
Exports, domestic	$000	264,619	257,021	244,914
Raw Cotton Consumption	lb.	11,641,566	12,887,596	14,190,431
Gold Receipts at Mint	fine oz.	227,962	231,918	286,771
Inspected Slaughterings -				
Cattle and Calves	no.	178,207	176,936	148,703
Sheep and Lambs	no.	122,849	96,298	85,963
Hogs	no.	440,581	451,826	475,828
Woodpulp Exports	cwt.	2,192,915	2,685,039	2,719,538
Shingles Exported	squares	120,757	128,722	93,596
Canned Salmon Exports	cwt.	91,670	10,894	29,297
Cigarettes Released	no.	1,066,832,187	1,097,374,903	923,720,371
Cigars Released	no.	16,471,982	15,223,180	16,472,106
Bank Debits	$000	4,818,599	4,531,791	4,485,004

* The index of the physical volume of business, according to preliminary calculations, showed recession from the preceding month.

Consumption and Production of Alcoholic Beverages

Canadians consumed smaller quantities of alcoholic beverages during the fiscal year ended March 31, 1944, than in the preceding twelve months, but consumed considerably more than in 1938-39, the last fiscal year before the outbreak of war, according to a tentative estimate made by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The increase in consumption over the pre-war year was especially noticeable in the case of malt liquor.

The apparent consumption of spirituous liquor during the fiscal year ended March 31, 1944, amounted to 3,443,716 proof gallons compared with 4,729,850 in the preceding year and 3,433,664 in 1938-39. Consumption of malt liquor totalled 90,709,847 gallons compared with 97,610,326 in 1942-43 and 63,302,752 in 1938-39, while the consumption of native and imported wines amounted to 3,593,946 gallons compared with 4,627,567 in 1942-43 and 3,461,867 in 1938-39.

Production of spirits during the fiscal year ended March 1944, advanced to 27,203,337 proof gallons from 19,657,698 in the preceding twelve months and 9,642,830 in 1938-39. Malt liquor production in the latest fiscal year stood at 104,062,427 gallons compared with 108,980,613 in 1942-43 and 63,331,620 in 1938-39. Output of wine in 1942, the latest year for which statistics are available, totalled 4,352,403 gallons compared with 3,998,232 in 1939.

Canada imported 823,422 proof gallons of spirits during the fiscal year 1943-44 compared with 1,284,116 in the preceding year and 1,265,909 in 1938-39. Imports of malt liquor amounted to 61,634 gallons compared with 85,211 in 1942-43 and 97,374 in 1938-39. Wine imports totalled 290,691 gallons compared with 434,699 in 1943-44 and 450,953 in 1938-39.

Exports of Canadian-made spirits in 1943-44 totalled 2,182,628 proof gallons compared with 2,536,605 in 1942-43 and 2,087,956 in 1938-39. Malt liquor exports amounted to 6,604,977 gallons compared with 5,839,905 in the preceding year and 123,726 in 1938-39. Native wine exports totalled 42,493 gallons compared with 7,385 in 1943-44 and 2,347 in 1938-39.

Dominion Government revenues, exclusive of sales tax, derived from the manufacture and sale of liquor, collected during the fiscal year 1943-44, amounted to $78,674,018 compared with $80,952,243 in 1942-43 and $25,669,341 in 1938-39.

Canal Traffic in September

Total traffic through the Canadian and United States locks of the Sault Ste. Marie Canals in September declined to 15,962,268 tons from 16,935,848 tons in the corresponding month of last year. Iron ore shipments, eastbound declined from 12,997,158 to 11,703,924 tons, and westbound bituminous coal declined from 2,524,241 to 2,084,218 tons. Wheat increased from 21,322,361 to 44,753,386 bushels and other grain from 11,145,872 to 14,772,064 bushels.

Total traffic using the Welland Ship Canals in September increased to 1,504,563 tons from 1,325,792 tons in September, 1943. Wheat increased by 118,022 tons, oats by 19,987 tons, gasoline by 18,325 tons and iron ore by 66,544 tons. Anthracite coal increased by 22,477 tons but bituminous coal decreased by 61,619 tons.

Traffic using the St. Lawrence canals in September declined to 814,142 tons from 977,084 tons in September last year. The tonnage of bituminous coal declined by 179,385 tons, petroleum and other oils 68,595 tons, other ores (bauxite) 33,791 tons and pulpwood 14,781 tons. Wheat increased by 65,432 tons, oats by 15,233 tons, gasoline by 23,717 tons and anthracite coal by 22,713.

Production of Leading Minerals

The Canadian production of coal during the first eight months of the current year declined to 10,934,181 tons from 11,726,721 tons in the similar period of 1943, while the output of natural gas advanced to 31,500,062,000 cubic feet from 28,880,923,000 in the 1943 period. Production of other leading minerals during the first eight months of this year was as follows, totals for the eight months of 1943 being in brackets: asbestos, 273,309 (318,515) tons; cement, 4,704,509 (4,894,698) barrels; clay products, $4,170,570 ($4,160,866); copper, 377,675,610 (388,542,859) pounds; feldspar, 15,536 (15,039) tons; gold, 1,995,285 (2,558,644) fine ounces; gypsum, 398,119 (246,268) tons;

lead, 195,077,319 (309,515,516) pounds; lime 584,191 (586,662) tons; nickel, 186,031,271 (195,390,390) pounds; petroleum, 6,681,415 (6,743,301) barrels; commercial salt, 216,473 (222,257) tons; silver, 9,167,065 (12,249,794) fine ounces; zinc, 351,030,886. (417,136,086) pounds.

Production of Gold in August

The Canadian production of gold in August totalled 236,870 fine ounces compared with 235,618 in the preceding month and 293,281 in the corresponding month of 1943. The value of this year's August output was $9,119,495. During the first eight months of the current year production aggregated 1,995,285 fine ounces compared with 2,558,644 in the similar period of last year.

Output by producing areas in August was as follows, totals for the corresponding month of last year being in brackets: Nova Scotia, 405 (317) fine ounces; Quebec, 56,414 (71,102); Ontario, 145,100 (168,756); Manitoba and Saskatchewan, 13,984 (22,210); British Columbia, 15,219 (18,248); Yukon, 4,797 (6,189); Northwest Territories, 950 (6,455) fine ounces.

Index Numbers of Wholesale Prices

The general index number of wholesale commodity prices, on the base 1926=100, at 102.3 for September, was unchanged from the standing in the preceding month but was 1.2 points higher than in the corresponding month of last year. As compared with August, the index for the vegetable products group fell 0.2 points to 94.4, chemical products 0.2 points to 100.1, while that for wood products advanced 0.1 to 118.1.

The indexes for animal products at 106.0, textile products at 91.7, iron products at 117.0, non-ferrous metals at 79.7, and non-metallic minerals at 102.3, were not altered from the August level. The index for Canadian farm products stood at 101.0, a reduction of 0.2 points from August and 2.6 points from September, 1943.

Price Index Numbers of Commodities and Services Used by Farmers

A composite Dominion index of commodities and services used by farmers, including farm family living costs, advanced from 132.9 in April to 133.8 in August, 1944. Services are represented in this series by tax rates, interest rates and wage rates. This rise of 0.9 points was due to an increase in farm wage rates which customarily advance during the summer months. An index for wage rates alone increased from 258.0 to 275.2 during this interval; its influence in the composite series was partially offset by a decline in the cost-of-living section from 123.0 to 122.6. Lower prices for foods and household equipment accounted for this decrease, over-balancing small advances for clothing and fuel. A Dominion composite, excluding wages and living costs, remained unchanged between April and August at 120.8.

Changes in prices of commodities used by farmers cancelled out, leaving the August index at 125.8, unchanged from April. Scattered price increases in the building materials group were offset by minor declines for hardware and feeds.

Composite indexes of commodities and services used by farmers, including farm family living costs, showed roughly parallel increases for both eastern and western Canada. Between April and August the eastern series increased from 133.4 to 134.1, while the western series mounted from 132.3 to 133.4. Wage increases were slightly greater in the west than in the east. Other changes, although not always in the same direction in the east and west, were of minor importance.

Eastern and western farm family cost of living indexes declined by similar amounts, the eastern series falling from 122.8 to 122.3, and the western index from 123.4 to 123.1.

Applications for Unemployment Insurance Benefits

Applications received for unemployment insurance benefit in September totalled 3,715, a slight increase over the August total of 3,241 and more than three times the 1,013 registered in September 1943. The number of persons who signed the live unemployment register during the last week in September at 5,746, was also slightly higher than during the last week in August when 5,408 signed, the increase being attributable almost entirely to females.

A total of 4,373 claims were available for adjudication at insurance offices during September, 876 of which were pending at the beginning of the month. Of this total, 2,884 were considered entitled to benefit, 723 were considered not entitled to benefit and 786 were pending at the end of September.

During September, 2,178 persons commenced receiving benefit payments, but a total of 4,625 persons were paid benefit during the month. This compares with a total of 4,746 who were paid benefit in August and 921 last September.

Those receiving benefit in September were paid $117,008 for 61,917 unemployed days as against $108,688 paid for 57,547 days in August and $20,066 paid for 11,408 days in September 1943.

The average number of days paid per beneficiary was 13.4 in September, 12.1 in August and 12.4 last September. The average amount of benefit paid per beneficiary was $25.30 in September, $22.90 in August and $21.79 in September 1943. The average amount paid per compensated day of unemployment was $1.89 in September, $1.89 in August and $1.76 last September.

Financing of Motor Vehicle Sales in September

Financing of new and used motor vehicles in Canada in September totalled 2,612 units with a financed value of $1,190,483. Declines below September, 1943, when 3,429 vehicles were financed for $1,342,297, amounted to 24 per cent in number and 11 per cent in dollar volume. Included in the September 1944 totals were 212 new vehicles, sales of which were financed to the extent of $254,400.

Used vehicle financing declined 28 per cent in number and 25 per cent in dollar volume, 2,400 units being financed for $936,083 in September compared with 3,346 transactions involving $1,248,365 in the same month of last year. Reductions below September 1943 in number of used vehicles financed continued extensive for all regions with the exception of Quebec where a five per cent decline occurred. Percentage declines in other sections of the country were as follows: British Columbia, 15; Ontario, 25; Alberta, 35; Maritime Provinces, 36; and Manitoba and Saskatchewan combined, 60.

There were 1,722 new vehicles financed in the first nine months of the current year compared with 628 new vehicles financed in the same period of last year. Used vehicles financed in the January to September period numbered 25,038 this year and 30,794 in 1943.

Cheques Cashed in Clearing Centres in September

Cheques cashed by the chartered banks rose 7.4 per cent in September over the corresponding month of last year, the total being $4,819,000,000 compared with $4,485,000,000. Advances were shown in each of the five economic areas except British Columbia. Twenty-four of the thirty-three clearing centres recorded a greater volume of business. During the first nine months of the current year the amount of cheques cashed aggregated $44,011,000,000 compared with $38,379,000,000 in the similar period of 1943, an increase of 14.7 per cent.

Stocks of Canadian Wheat in Store

Stocks of Canadian wheat in store or in transit in North America at midnight on October 19 amounted to 327,447,285 bushels compared with 363,875,128 on the corresponding date of last year. Stocks on the latest date included 301,952,707 bushels in Canadian positions and 25,494,578 in United States positions.

Marketings of Wheat and Coarse Grains

Deliveries of wheat from the farms in the three Prairie Provinces during the week ending October 19 amounted to 17,536,427 bushels compared with 12,134,132 in the preceding week. During the elapsed portion of the present crop year, 109,053,746 bushels were marketed compared with 47,038,382 in the similar period of the preceding crop year.

The following quantities of coarse grains were also delivered from farms in the Prairie Provinces during the week ending October 19, totals for the preceding week being in brackets: oats, 3,412,517 (2,923,482) bushels; barley, 5,295,528 (4,954,484); rye, 172,073 (163,594); flaxseed, 1,511,276 (973,424).

Fisheries Production of British Columbia

The value of the fisheries production of British Columbia in 1943 amounted to $32,477,964, a decrease of $5,581,595 or 15 per cent from the 1942 valuation. The salmon fishery, the most important single fishery in the Dominion, showed a decrease of 407,766 cwt. or 25 per cent in the quantity caught. The decrease in landed value was $5,592,983 or 44 per cent, and that in marketed value was $7,679,583 per cent. The total production value of salmon was $14,740,298, or over 45 per cent of the total value of the fisheries production of the province.

Herring, the second fishery in point of value, showed a decrease of 496,884 cwt. or 21 per cent in the quantity landed, an increase in the landed value of $117,958 or nine per cent, but a decrease in the marketed value amounting to $414,124 or five per cent. The total production was valued at $7,809,630.

Halibut registered an increase of 15 per cent in the quantity caught, 51 per cent in the landed value and 24 per cent in the value as marketed, and pilchards increased 35 per cent in catch, 112 per cent in landed value and 37 per cent in value marketed. Grayfish showed a decrease in quantity caught but an increase in the marketed value of liver oil sufficient to more than compensate declines in the values of meal and industrial oil, the final value of all grayfish products amounting to $2,106,470 or nearly 63 per cent more than in 1942.

The total quantity of fish taken, including shell fish, was 6,230,536 cwt. a decrease of 480,839 cwt. from the 5,711,375 cwt. taken in 1942 and the value to fishermen at the point of landing was $15,475,494, a decrease of 16 per cent from the preceding year.

Public Hospitals in Canada in 1942.

There were 597 public hospitals in Canada in 1942, of which 594 reported details of their operations to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. These 597 hospitals had a bed capacity of 50,197 beds and 6,733 bassinets, or five beds per 1,000 of the population which, according to authorities on this subject, is sufficient to provide a normal occupancy of 75 per cent of the beds, leaving a 25 per cent margin for fluctuations in the prevalence of disease.

Admissions to public hospitals during 1942 totalled 1,079,007 persons, an increase of 5.8 per cent over admissions in the preceding year, while the number of persons under care was 1,111,189 who received 13,628,135 days' care. Nine persons out of every 100 received care in public hospitals in 1942 as compared with eight per 100 in 1941.

The total personnel of all public hospitals in 1942 was 42,041, an increase of 1,173 over the preceding year. There were 614 doctors on the staffs of these hospitals, 797 interns and 8,142 graduate nurses, representing 22.5 per cent of total personnel. There were 165 schools of nursing with 9,155 student nurses and 1,814 probationers, an increase of 261 over 1941. The number of nurses that graduated in 1942 was 2,777.

The average cost of maintaining a patient in public hospitals during the year was $49.69, while the per diem cost based on patient days for Canada as a whole was $4.06. The cost per patient day by provinces was as follows: Prince Edward Island, $3.21; Nova Scotia, $3.61; New Brunswick, $3.70; Quebec, $4.38; Ontario, $4.01; Manitoba, $3.54; Saskatchewan, $3.69; Alberta, $3.57; and British Columbia, $4.69.

Total revenue of 481 public hospitals which reported fully on finances during 1942 was $53,385,749 with total expenditures of $53,380,815. Net earnings from patients totalled $35,019,404. Grants from the provinces for maintenance of patients amounted to $6,044,828, from municipalities $5,070,489 and other special grants $441,542.

The foregoing is based on statistics contained in the annual report of hospitals issued by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, copies of which may be obtained on application - price 25 cents.

Revenue Freight Loadings in July

Revenue freight loaded at Canadian stations and received from foreign connections during July decreased to 12,709,195 tons from the July 1943 total of 13,189,722 tons. Loadings increased from 8,582,976 to 8,682,091 tons or by 1.1 per cent, but imports declined from 2,058,537 to 1,709,072 tons or by 17 per cent and freight between foreign points decreased from 2,548,209 to 2,318,032 tons or by 14.9 per cent.

Car Loadings on Canadian Railways

Car loadings on Canadian railways during the week ended October 14 declined to 70,383 cars from the peak of 78,270 cars established in the preceding week, the Thanksgiving holiday on October 9 undoubtedly being the chief factor in the decrease. Loadings in the corresponding week of last year amounted to 66,797 cars.

In the eastern division, loadings increased from 42,991 cars in 1943 to 44,246, and in the western division from 23,806 to 26,137 cars. Grain increased in both divisions, the total being up by 4,503 cars. Pulpwood loadings increased by 420 cars, fresh fruits by 316, merchandise by 342, and miscellaneous by 324 cars. Live stock declined by 358 cars, coal by 608, coke by 214, logs etc. by 403, ores by 454 and sand, stone, gravel, etc. by 480 cars.

Reports Issued Today

1. Monthly Traffic Report of Railways, July (10 cents).
2. Advance Report on Fisheries of British Columbia, 1943 (10 cents).
3. Statistical Report on the Operation of the Unemployment Insurance Act, September (10 cents).
4. Car Loadings on Canadian Railways (10 cents).
5. Financing of Motor Vehicle Sales, September (10 cents).
6. Canadian Grain Statistics (10 cents).
7. Annual Report of Hospitals in Canada, 1942 (25 cents).
8. Building Permits, September (10 cents).
9. Gold Production, August (10 cents).
10. Prices and Price Indexes, September (10 cents).
11. Price Index Numbers of Commodities and Services Used by Farmers, August (10 cents).
12. Cheques Cashed in Clearing Centres, September (10 cents).
13. Sales of Clay Products Made from Canadian Clays, August (10 cents).
14. Summary of Canal Traffic, September (10 cents).
15. Production of Canada's Leading Minerals, August (10 cents).
16. Control and Sale of Alcoholic Beverages (50 cents).

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