

Bureau of Statistics
Department of Trade and Commerce

Saturday, December 30, 1944

Price \$1.00 per year

Crude Petroleum

Output of crude petroleum and natural gasoline in September advanced to 833,495 barrels from the preceding month's total of 827,310 barrels. During the first nine months of the current year output aggregated 7,539,746 barrels as compared with 7,570,611 in the corresponding preceding year.

September output was recorded at 718,400 barrels, including 682,032 barrels from the Wainwright-Ribstone field, 1,727 from the Wainwright-Ribstone field, and 34,641 barrels from other fields. New Brunswick produced 1,789 barrels in September, Ontario 11,615 and Territories 126,527 barrels.

Production of Natural Gas in September

Production of natural gas in Canada during September amounted to 2,781,918,000 cubic feet as compared with 2,527,506,000 in the preceding month and 2,711,820,000 in the corresponding month of last year. During the first nine months of the present year the output aggregated 34,281,980,000 cubic feet as compared with 31,592,743,000 in the corresponding period of 1943.

Sales of Gasoline in August

Sales of motor, tractor and aviation grades of gasoline in Canada in August were recorded at 104,252,000 gallons as compared with 93,569,000 in the preceding month and 94,880,000 in the corresponding month of last year. Sales during the first eight months of this year totalled 637,526,000 gallons as compared with 574,154,000 in the similar period of 1943.

Production of Iron and Steel in November

The production of steel ingots and steel castings during November was recorded at 268,923 net tons as compared with 259,444 in the corresponding month of last year. During the first eleven months of the current year production totalled 2,780,928 net tons as compared with 2,769,156 in the like period of 1943.

Pig iron production in November amounted to 146,972 net tons as compared with 154,119 in November of last year. This year's November output included 121,691 tons of basic iron, 13,408 tons of foundry iron and 11,873 tons of malleable iron. Production during the first eleven months of 1944 totalled 1,713,476 net tons as compared with 1,621,009 in the comparable period of 1943.

Output of ferro-alloys in November amounted to 15,280 net tons as compared with 15,631 in the preceding month and 16,169 in November, 1943. Production during the eleven months ended November aggregated 170,037 net tons as compared with 201,649 in the similar period of 1943.

Index Numbers of Wholesale Commodity Prices

The general index number of wholesale commodity prices, on the base 1926=100, at 102.4 in November, was unchanged from the level of the preceding month and that recorded in the corresponding month of last year. Amongst the sub-groups, the index number for vegetable products declined to 94.6 from 94.7 in October, chemical products to 99.9 from 100.1, while that for animal products rose to 106.7 from 106.3. Other group indexes were unchanged.

Canal Traffic in November

Total traffic using the Canadian and United States locks of the Sault Ste. Marie Canals during November declined to 9,188,408 tons from 12,055,614 in the corresponding month of last year. Downbound iron ore dropped from 7,403,683 to 5,183,589 tons, up-bound soft coal from 1,825,724 to 1,441,422 tons and wheat from 67,099,051 to 58,632,035 bushels.

Welland Ship Canal traffic in November increased to 1,241,459 tons from 1,217,792 in November, 1943. Wheat decreased by 50,389 tons but barley increased by 50,199 tons and oats by 13,984 tons. Gasoline increased by 26,890 tons, petroleum and other oils by 19,903 tons, iron, pig and bloom, by 11,403 tons, pulpwood by 11,742 tons and bituminous coal by 29,522 tons. Iron ore declined by 46,945 tons and other ore by 21,645 tons.

Mainly through heavier shipments of grain, total traffic using the St. Lawrence canals increased from 576,504 tons in November 1943 to 660,003 in November this year. Bituminous coal decreased by 33,844 tons and other ore (bauxite) by 36,605 tons, but barley increased by 44,785 tons, wheat by 82,695 tons, paper by 15,278 tons and anthracite coal by 16,429 tons.

Car Loadings on Canadian Railways

Car loadings on Canadian railways for the week ended December 16 fell to 67,558 cars from 72,668 in the preceding week, but were higher than the 67,411 cars recorded for the corresponding week of last year. In the eastern division loadings fell from 41,247 cars in 1943 to 39,721 cars, while in the western division there was a rise from 26,164 to 27,837 cars.

Grain loadings rose from 8,539 cars in 1943 to 9,953 cars, pulpwood from 1,574 to 1,912 cars and fresh vegetables from 797 to 1,267 cars. Coal declined from 6,722 cars in 1943 to 6,418, logs and other forest products from 2,446 to 1,871 cars, hay and straw from 1,052 to 522 cars, ores, matte and other mine products from 3,319 to 2,944 cars and automobiles and parts from 1,520 to 1,237 cars.

Output of Central Electric Stations in November

Central electric stations produced 3,439,651,000 kilowatt hours in November, a decrease of 21,086,000 kilowatt hours from the output of 3,460,737,000 kilowatt hours in November last year. The decrease was all in primary power which dropped from 3,220,679,000 to 3,010,218,000 kilowatt hours, or by 6.5 per cent.

Production during the first 11 months of the current year aggregated 37,109,651,000 kilowatt hours, establishing a new all-time high record. The excess over the previous peak of 36,818,140,000 kilowatt hours for the corresponding period of 1943 was 291,491,000. In the corresponding period of 1939 the output totalled 25,815,272,000 kilowatt hours.

Exports of electric power to the United States in November decreased to 187,257,000 kilowatt hours from the November 1943 total of 197,652,000. Here also, the decrease was in primary power, secondary power showing a small increase. Consumption of primary power, including all losses, showed a small decrease in November, but consumption of secondary power more than doubled but was only about half of the consumption of secondary power recorded in November 1939.

Building Permits Issued in November

The value of building permits issued by municipalities reporting to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics in November was \$8,180,131 as compared with \$11,914,020 in the preceding month and \$6,488,266 in the corresponding month of last year. During the first 11 months of the present year the value of building permits issued advanced to \$119,794,996 from last year's corresponding total of \$73,808,748.

Revenue Freight Loaded in September

Revenue freight loaded at Canadian stations and received from foreign connections during September declined to 13,133,692 tons from 13,396,189 tons in August and 13,428,488 tons in September, 1943. Loadings increased by 356,369 tons, due mainly to a large increase in wheat of 507,529 tons or 41 per cent. Imports declined by 382,514 tons and

freight between foreign points declined by 268,651 tons; the largest decrease in this last class was crude petroleum which dropped from 359,841 in September last year to 42,695 tons, the smallest tonnage since March, 1942.

Flaxseed declined from 45,705 tons in 1943 to 22,676 tons. Loadings of poultry in carload lots increased from 156 to 1,190 tons and eggs rose from 2,808 to 5,742 tons. Butter declined from 7,608 to 4,335 tons, and cheese from 13,319 to 8,076 tons. Loadings of bituminous coal declined from 717,137 to 695,006 tons and imports from 568,863 to 500,951 tons, and loadings of lignite coal dropped from 332,130 to 306,335 tons. Iron and steel (bar-sheet, etc.) declined from 149,319 to 103,617 tons, cement from 101,515 to 86,531 tons and automobiles, trucks and parts from 180,043 to 165,638 tons. Loadings of fertilizers increased from 86,811 to 111,012 tons.

Grain Trade of Canada in 1942-43

The crop year 1942-43 was outstanding by reason of the enormous accumulation of wheat arising from the large carry-over at the end of July 1942, and the production in 1942 of the second largest wheat crop in the history of the Dominion, according to the 26th annual report on the grain trade of Canada issued by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Another feature of the crop year was the very substantial exports of oats and barley to the United States brought about by a tightening of the food grain supply situation in that country.

The production of wheat in Canada in 1942 amounted to 556,684,000 bushels, of which 529,000,000 bushels were produced in the three Prairie Provinces. This crop came on top of a carry-over of almost 424,000,000 bushels, so that the total supply of wheat available for use in the crop year 1942-43 was approximately 980,000,000 bushels. The carry-over at the end of the crop year was 594,000,000 bushels, so that the disappearance in the form of seed, feed, human food and exports was approximately 386,000,000 bushels during the year. The carry-over was the largest on record and a very substantial part of it represented stocks of wheat still held on farms in Western Canada. Difficulties of storage and transportation prevailed throughout the year, the storage problem being quite serious in the early part of the season and the transportation problem taking on the emphasis in the closing months of the crop year.

Production of oats in Canada in 1942 totalled 652,000,000 bushels, of which 500,000,000 bushels were produced in the three Prairie Provinces. Barley production in the Dominion amounted to 259,000,000 bushels, of which the Prairie Provinces grew 241,000,000 bushels, while the total production of spring and fall rye was 24,742,000 bushels, of which 23,000,000 bushels were grown in Western Canada. The flaxseed crop totalled 14,982,000 bushels and all but 200,000 bushels of this was produced in the three Prairie Provinces.

Exports of wheat and flour reached a total of 214,700,000 bushels or about 11,000,000 bushels less than was exported in the crop year 1941-42. The bulk of the wheat and flour shipments again went to the United Kingdom and other British Dominions and possessions, with substantial quantities shipped to Egypt and a considerable volume of wheat to Greece in the form of a gift from Canada. Exports of oats exceeded 63,000,000 bushels, while exports of barley totalled almost 34,000,000 bushels. Both of these grains went, very largely, to the United States. The same was true of the relatively small exports of rye and for the first year in a long time Canada was an exporter of flaxseed.

Copies of "Grain Trade of Canada, 1942-43" may be obtained on application to the King's Printer, Ottawa, at 50 cents each.

Stocks and Marketings of Wheat

Stocks of Canadian wheat in store or in transit in North America on December 21 advanced to 372,176,535 bushels from last year's corresponding total of 359,813,349 bushels. Stocks this year included 327,422,549 bushels in Canadian positions and 44,753,986 in United States positions.

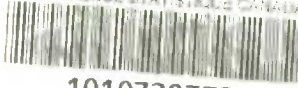
Deliveries of wheat from farms in the Prairie Provinces during the week ending December 21 totalled 8,682,693 bushels as compared with 8,818,126 in the preceding week. From the commencement of the present crop year to December 21 marketings of wheat in Western Canada amounted to 214,974,424 bushels as compared with 113,515,486 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 December 21, totals for the preceding week being in brackets: oats, 1,643,725 (1,619,391) bushels; barley, 1,498,619 (1,721,186); rye, 81,034 (62,055); flaxseed, 87,792 (63,375).

Reports Issued During the Week

1. Prices and Price Indexes, November (10 cents).
2. Production of Iron and Steel, November (10 cents).
3. Petroleum and Natural Gas Production, September; and Petroleum Fuels Sales, August (10 cents).
4. Car Loadings on Canadian Railways (10 cents).
5. Canadian Grain Statistics (10 cents).
6. Summary of Canal Traffic, November (10 cents).
7. Monthly Traffic Report of Railways, September (10 cents).
8. Central Electric Stations, November (10 cents).
9. Grain Trade of Canada, 1942-43 (50 cents).
10. Building Permits, November (10 cents).

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