

## WEEKLY BULLETIN

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### Facts of Interest from Bureau Records

Before the period of extensive railway construction, which commenced for Canada in the 1850's, the water routes, more especially the St. Lawrence, the Great Lakes and the Ottawa, were the chief avenues of transportation. These routes were interrupted at certain points, necessitating portages and, to eliminate the toil of unloading, transporting and reloading at the portages, canals were constructed. The earliest mention of canals in Canada is in connection with the Lachine Canal, begun by early French settlers in 1700. Although some of the early canals were constructed primarily for military purposes they soon became essential to the commercial life of the country. However, since the development of railways in Canada and, even more, since the growth of motor-vehicle traffic, the canals, with the exception of those on the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River route, are playing a minor part in the transportation activities of the country. The canals of Canada serve six routes with an overall length of 1,890 miles, the total of actual canal being 509 miles.

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Canada has perhaps the largest fishing grounds in the world. On the Atlantic, from Grand Manan to Labrador, the coast line, not including the lesser bays and indentations, measures over 5,000 miles. The Bay of Fundy, 8,000 square miles in extent, the Gulf of St. Lawrence, fully ten times that size, and other ocean waters comprise not less than 200,000 square miles or over four-fifths of the area of the fishing grounds of the North Atlantic. In addition there are on the Atlantic seaboard 15,000 square miles of inshore waters controlled entirely by the Dominion. The Pacific Coast of the Dominion measures 7,180 miles in length. Inland lakes contain more than half of the fresh water on the planet; Canada's share of the Great Lakes alone has an area of over 34,000 square miles.

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The system of making cheese in factories originated in Herkimer County, New York State, about 1851 and that district played a leading part in the development of the industry. In 1863, Harvey Farrington, a successful cheesemaker of Herkimer County, paid a visit to Oxford County, Ontario, and was so impressed with its suitability for cheese-making that he moved his family there and started the first cheese factory in Canada in the following year in the Township of Norwich. Four other factories were opened in the county in the year afterwards, and the town of Ingersoll became the centre of the cheese industry. In the same year, another United States citizen named Strong opened a factory in Eastern Ontario near Brookville. At the same time factories were started in the Province of Quebec. It was not until 21 years later that the first cheese factory was opened in the Prairie Provinces at Shoal Lake, Manitoba. The production of factory cheese in Canada in 1944 amounted to 180,160,000 pounds as compared with 165,528,000 in the preceding year.

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Feldspar is a versatile mineral of which Canada has an abundance. By far the greater part of the feldspar produced in the Dominion is used in the ceramic industries, of which the glass trade is the largest consumer, followed by the pottery, enamel, and sanitary ware industries. Minor amounts are used in the manufacture of soaps, cleaners, and abrasive wheels. Preliminary figures show that 20,494 tons of feldspar were produced in Canada in 1944 with a value of \$205,000.

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The first creameries in Canada were built in the Province of Quebec; one was started in Huntingdon County in 1873 which only continued in business for a short time, but another more fortunate venture was started in the same county shortly afterwards. In 1875 another creamery was built at Rockburn and the first cream-gathering system was instituted in Drummond County, Quebec, in 1878. Teeswater, Ontario, claims to have had the first creamery in that province, built in 1875. In 1886 the first creamery was opened in Manitoba, and creameries were built at Saltcoats, Saskatchewan, in 1890, and at Innisfail, Alberta, in 1894. The first estimate covering the production of creamery butter showed an output for the year 1900 of 36,000,000 pounds. In 1915 the quantity had increased to 84,000,000 pounds, in 1920 to 112,000,000 pounds and in 1944 to 298,000,000 pounds.

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## Consumer Market Data

The analysis of domestic markets, the selection of efficient channels of distribution and the planning of sales promotional activities require many different series of comprehensive statistics. Much of this material, to be of maximum value to business men, must be presented by small geographical units to facilitate the grouping of the data into larger areas which constitute the sales territory of various kinds and types of businesses. The value of such markets to individual concerns may thus be appraised.

Analysis of domestic markets for consumer goods in one form or another is a continuing activity of most business houses engaged in the production, sales-promotion or distribution of such products. Recognizing the need for accurate and comprehensive statistics on domestic markets, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics issued this week a publication entitled "CONSUMER MARKET DATA" which brings together a great deal of information to meet the needs of market research and analysis. The report is based chiefly on the final results of the 1941 Census of Population, Agriculture, Housing and Merchandising and Service Establishments.

The tables are so arranged as to show separate figures for each county or census division and for each incorporated place of 2,000 population or over. Data are presented to give various analyses of the population, number of households, the number of retail stores and the value of retail sales. A special table is included to present data on the housing characteristics of each of the 27 Canadian cities with population of 30,000 and over, while other tables present information by provinces on the farm market for consumer goods and on the value of retail sales in 1941 by commodity groups.

This 117 page report is accompanied by a map illustrating the geographical distribution of the retail trade of Canada. The report sells for \$1.00 per copy. Remittances should be made payable to the Receiver General of Canada and forwarded to the Dominion Statistician, Ottawa.

## Index Numbers of Wholesale Prices in February

The general index number of wholesale prices, on the base 1926=100, stood at 102.9 in February as compared with 102.8 in the preceding month and 102.7 in the corresponding month of last year. As compared with January 1945, increases were recorded by three of the eight sub-group indexes, the standing of the remaining five groups having been unchanged.

Sub-group indexes which recorded advances were as follows, those for the preceding month being in brackets: vegetable products, 95.8 (95.7); animal products, 106.9 (106.7); iron products, 117.2 (117.1). The following sub-group indexes were unchanged: textile products, 91.7; wood products, 118.3; non-ferrous metals, 79.7; non-metallic minerals, 102.7; and chemical products, 100.1.

## Claims for Unemployment Insurance Benefit

Local offices of the Unemployment Insurance Commission received a total of 14,990 claims for unemployment insurance benefit during February as compared with 20,412 in the preceding month and 12,284 in the corresponding month of last year. During the last six working days in February, 29,692 persons signed the live unemployment register as compared with 27,305 in January and 16,121 in February 1944.

At insurance offices, 16,988 claims were considered during February and of these 13,834 were considered entitled to benefit and 3,154 not entitled to benefit. The chief reasons for non-entitlement were: voluntarily left employment without just cause with 1,156 cases; insufficient contributions while in insurable employment, 1,312 cases; and discharged for misconduct, 309 cases.

Persons who drew one or more benefit payments during February numbered 23,062 as compared with 15,575 in January and 9,056 during February, 1944. During February of this year these persons drew a total of \$822,490 for 422,873 compensated unemployed days, as against \$546,569 for 281,193 days in January and \$301,393 for 158,455 days in February 1944.

The average duration of the unemployment compensated was 18.3 days in February, 18.1 days in January and 17.5 days in February of last year. The average amount of benefit paid per beneficiary was \$35.66 in February, \$35.09 in January and \$33.28 in February 1944. The average amount paid per compensated day of unemployment was \$1.55



in February, \$1.94 in January and \$1.90 in February 1944.

### Revenues and Expenses of Provincial Governments

The aggregate of gross ordinary revenues and expenditures of provincial governments of Canada reached a new high point during their respective fiscal years ended nearest December 31, 1942. This was due largely to the continued buoyancy of Liquor Control revenues which increased by 29.5 per cent, or from \$46,348,000 in 1941 to \$60,035,000 in 1942. This revenue source is now second in importance only to amounts received from the Federal Government. Gross ordinary revenues totalled \$412,385,000 as compared with \$404,791,000 in the preceding year, while gross ordinary expenditures amounted to \$354,195,000 as compared with \$349,818,000. The excess of gross revenues over gross expenditures for all provincial governments combined was \$58,190,000.

In the year under review, net combined revenues, ordinary and capital, increased to \$347,088,000 from the 1941 total of \$338,740,000, or by 2.5 per cent and net combined expenditures, ordinary and capital, declined to \$300,780,000 from \$315,627,000, or by 4.7 per cent. For perhaps the first time since Confederation, certainly for the first time in the last 30 years, the revenues of every province exceeded the total of ordinary and capital expenditures.

The major change in the provincial revenue structure was the large decline of \$64,795,000 in the revenue from personal income, corporation and gasoline taxes and the compensating increase of \$64,835,000 in the amount received from the Federal Government. This shift was the direct result of the fuller operation of the Dominion-Provincial Taxation Agreement Act. Amounts received from the Dominion during 1942 constituted slightly more than one-third of gross ordinary provincial revenues. The amounts received by the provinces under the terms of the Taxation Agreements include compensation for the suspension of municipal as well as provincial income and corporation taxes. During 1942 the provinces paid \$4,067,000 to their municipalities as compensation for loss of revenue from these sources.

The reduction in combined expenditures, ordinary and capital, was due to the large decrease of \$19,639,000 in capital expenditure. The greater part of this decline was due to a reduction of \$14,734,000 in highway expenditure charged to capital account. Of the rather substantial increase of \$5,277,000 or 13 per cent in net ordinary expenditure on education, \$4,005,000 took place in Quebec. The increase of \$1,958,000 or 18.8 per cent in the cost of old age and blind pensions was due very largely to Alberta's and British Columbia's increased grants to offset the rise in the cost of living.

The totals of gross ordinary revenues in 1942 were as follows by provinces, with gross ordinary expenditures in brackets: Prince Edward Island, \$2,278,000 (\$2,273,000); Nova Scotia, \$20,462,000 (\$17,737,000); New Brunswick, \$16,216,000 (\$15,056,000); Quebec, \$114,583,000 (\$101,293,000); Ontario, \$132,145,000 (\$114,906,000); Manitoba, \$23,186,000 (\$19,386,000); Saskatchewan, \$30,615,000 (\$25,959,000); Alberta, \$28,752,000 (\$21,312,000); British Columbia, \$44,148,000 (\$36,273,000).

### Department Store Sales in February

Department store sales in February were 11 per cent higher than in February of last year and were up by a similar margin over the preceding month. Sales in the first two months of the current year averaged 11.5 per cent greater than in the corresponding period of 1944. Unadjusted indexes of sales, on the base 1935-1939=100 stood at 136.3 for February, 122.6 for January and 122.4 for February 1944. Mail order business of departmental firms is included in the figures from which these results are derived.

For the second consecutive month, Ontario led other regions of the country in point of view of increased sales as compared with the corresponding month of last year. This represents a reversal of the trend which prevailed throughout the greater part of 1944 when Ontario sales increases were generally lower than those recorded for other sections. February increases over last year, with gains for the first two months in brackets, were as follows: Maritimes, 5 per cent (9 per cent); Quebec, 12 per cent (13 per cent); Ontario, 14 per cent (15 per cent); Prairie Provinces, 9 per cent (10 per cent); and British Columbia, 12 per cent (7 per cent).



### Production of Honey in 1944

The production of honey in Canada in 1944 amounted to 34,969,700 pounds, a decrease of 11.4 per cent from the large crop of 39,492,100 pounds produced in 1943. While the 1944 crop was the second largest since the outbreak of war, it was, however, two per cent smaller than the 5-year 1935-39 average. Increases over the preceding year were recorded in Prince Edward Island, Manitoba and Alberta, while smaller crops were harvested in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario, Saskatchewan and British Columbia. With the exception of Alberta the increase was entirely due to the increase in the number of colonies as average yields in all other provinces were below the 1943 levels.

The average yield per colony for the Dominion amounted to 69 pounds as compared with 88 in 1943. Yields ranged from a low of 39 pounds in Quebec to a high of 94 pounds for Manitoba. The average price for honey for the country as a whole was 15 cents per pound as compared with 15.4 in 1943. Increased interest in beekeeping which has been evident since the outbreak of war continued during 1944 and the total number of beekeepers rose to a record figure of 40,676. In 1943 the number had been 34,250.

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### Stocks and Marketings of Wheat and Coarse Grains

Stocks of Canadian wheat in store or in transit in North America at midnight on March 22 totalled 350,962,992 bushels as compared with 334,532,244 on the corresponding date of last year. Stocks on the latest date included 325,292,723 bushels in Canadian positions and 25,670,269 bushels in United States positions.

Deliveries of wheat from farms in the Prairie Provinces during the week ending March 22 totalled 2,758,293 bushels as compared with 3,944,305 in the preceding week. During the elapsed portion of the present crop year 269,693,895 bushels were marketed as compared with 191,366,799 in the similar period of 1943-44.

The following quantities of coarse grains were also delivered from farms in the Prairie Provinces during the week ending March 22, totals for the preceding week being in brackets: oats, 2,683,255 (3,528,912) bushels; barley, 398,002 (584,146); rye, 62,966 (98,430); flaxseed, 20,587 (12,523).

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### Dairy Factories in Canada in 1943

The value of output of dairy factories in 1943 amounted to \$243,843,000, the highest total ever recorded by the industry. The increase over the preceding year was \$7,733,000, or three per cent. The value of the manufactured products, including butter, cheese, concentrated milk, ice cream, etc., accounted for 74 per cent of the total value of output of the factories, while the remaining 26 per cent covered the value of the milk and cream whey cream, skim milk and buttermilk sold as such.

The production of creamery butter during 1943 was the largest on record, standing at 311,709,000 pounds. This amount exceeded the production of 1942 by 27,118,000 pounds or 10 per cent, and that of 1941 by 25,861,000 pounds or nine per cent. The value of butter produced also marked a high point with a total of \$105,103,734, an increase over 1942 of \$7,363,000 or eight per cent, and an advance of \$11,904,000 over 1941 or 13 per cent. The average price per pound for the year was 33.72 cents compared with 34.34 in 1942 and 32.60 in 1941.

The production of factory cheese showed a decrease from the preceding year of 41,408,000 pounds or 20 per cent. The total production in 1943 amounted to 165,528,000 pounds. With the exception of Saskatchewan, all provinces recorded reduced makes. The average price per pound advanced to 20.27 cents from 19.95 cents in 1942. The total value of the output amounted to \$33,550,000.

The output of concentrated milk in 1943 reached a total for all items of 255,225,000 pounds, of which concentrated whole milk accounted for 220,197,000 pounds and that of the by-products for 35,028,000. Compared with 1942, the total amount produced showed a decrease of 5,202,000 pounds or two per cent, but an increase over 1941 of 19,222,000 pounds or eight per cent. The value of all items combined in 1943 was \$26,014,000, an advance of \$1,620,000 over the preceding year.

For the milk and cream delivered to the dairy factories during 1943, the patrons received the sum of \$174,213,000, an increase over the preceding year of \$6,519,000. The amount was divided by factory groups as follows: to patrons of creameries, \$122,854,000, or 70 per cent; to patrons of cheese factories, \$24,267,000, or 14 per cent; to



patrons of combined butter and cheese factories, \$11,819,000, or seven per cent; and to patrons of concentrated milk plants, \$15,272,000 or nine per cent. The average price per pound paid by the factories for the milk in 1943 was \$1.92 per 100 pounds, and for the cream 35 cents per pound of butter fat content. In 1942 the average price paid for the milk was \$1.81 per 100 pounds, and for the butter fat 35 cents per pound.

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#### Coal and Coke Supplies of Canada in January

The production of coal in Canada in January totalled 1,681,613 tons, an increase of three per cent over the January 1944 output of 1,626,080 tons. Production for the latest month included 1,137,802 tons of bituminous coal, 341,866 tons of sub-bituminous coal and 201,945 tons of lignite. Coke production in January was recorded at 341,000 tons as compared with 330,000 in the preceding month and 345,000 in January 1944.

Canada imported 805,220 tons of coal during January as compared with 1,181,600 in the corresponding month of last year. The tonnage imported in January of this year included 237,512 tons of anthracite, 558,668 of bituminous and 9,040 tons of briquettes. Coal exported during the month amounted to 75,566 tons compared with 74,717 in January of last year, and included 74,076 tons of bituminous coal and 1,490 tons of lignite.

Beginning with January 1945, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics will classify Canadian coals according to the classification of the American Society for Testing Materials (A.S.T.M.). This classification has been adopted by the Associate Committee on Coal Classification and Analysis of the National Research Council of Canada. The A.S.T.M. classification provides a uniform system of classification for coals on the North American continent.

The application of the A.S.T.M. classification to Canadian coals for statistical purposes involves only a change in the low rank coals of Alberta, where there is a general promotion in rank and the districts are rearranged accordingly. Districts whose coals were formerly classified as lignite now become sub-bituminous with three exceptions and these three districts are changed to bituminous; districts formerly classified as bituminous remain as such. Under the new classification there is no lignite coal production reported for Alberta.

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#### Output of Central Electric Stations in February

Central electric stations produced 3,124,235,000 kilowatt hours in February as compared with 3,298,017,000 in the corresponding month of last year. On a daily basis this was a decrease of 1.9 per cent. The output of primary power declined from 3,080,771,000 to 2,645,482,000 kilowatt hours, but secondary power increased from 217,246,000 to 478,753,000 kilowatt hours.

Consumption of primary power in Canada decreased to 2,534,835,000 kilowatt hours in February from 2,969,275,000 in the corresponding month of last year, the decrease in Quebec being the main factor; small declines were recorded in Saskatchewan and Alberta but the other provinces showed increases. Exports to the United States in February decreased from 181,767,000 kilowatt hours in 1944 to 152,659,000.

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#### Car Loadings on Canadian Railways

Car loadings on Canadian railways for the week ended March 17 declined to 68,313 cars from 69,105 in the preceding week and 69,635 in the corresponding week of last year. In the eastern division loadings increased from 44,539 cars in 1944 to 46,490, but in the western division the total declined from 25,096 to 21,823 cars. Loadings of western grain decreased from 6,587 cars to 3,955, and live stock from 1,996 cars to 1,738. Coal increased by 466 cars in the western division and decreased by 334 in the eastern division. Total loadings of sugar increased from 172 to 300 cars, and vegetables from 832 cars to 1,201.

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#### Sales of Gasoline during 1944

Sales of motor, tractor and aviation grades of gasoline in Canada during the calendar year 1944 totalled 970,472,000 gallons as compared with 903,593,000 in the preceding year, according to reports received by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics from the tax departments of provincial governments and from Canadian oil companies.

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## Shipping in 1943

The number of vessels which entered Canadian ports during the calendar year 1943 was 87,967, including 65,066 in the coasting service and 22,901 in the foreign service. The registered net tonnage of the arrivals totalled 66,646,340, the tonnage of those in coasting service amounting to 40,300,778, and in foreign service 26,345,562. Departures from Canadian ports during the year totalled 88,553, of which 65,023 were in the coasting service and 23,530 in the foreign service. The registered net tonnage of all vessels cleared in 1943 was 67,173,228, the tonnage of those in coasting service totalling 38,668,241, and in foreign service 28,504,987.

The cargoes of vessels loaded at Canadian ports for destinations abroad in 1943 included 15,934,882 tons (2,000 lb.) weight and 589,255 tons measurement (40 cubic feet). The following were the cargoes loaded for shipment to leading countries, figures of tons measurement being in brackets: United States, 7,718,674 (21); United Kingdom, 6,309,737 (379,564); Newfoundland, St. Pierre and Miquelon, 861,951 (99); Mediterranean and Black Sea, 291,250 (28,984); Australia, New Zealand and Other Oceania, 150,867 (57,754); Eire, 122,992; South Africa, 92,367 (55,864); Hawaiian Islands, 65,437; Alaska, 60,492 (19,488); West Indies, 54,205 (345); and India, Burma and Ceylon, 46,547 (45,460).

Among the principal items loaded at Canadian ports for destinations abroad during 1943 were the following: wheat, 4,456,255; barley, 778,894; oats, 554,876; flour, 398,423; meat, 83,523; bituminous coal, 427,984; gypsum, 226,309; pulpwood and chips, 1,056,235; lumber, timber, box and crate stock, 1,077,813; petroleum oils and products, 560,756; iron, pig and bloom, 212,482; automobiles, trucks and parts, 60,602; paper and paper stock, 366,315; wood pulp and pulp screenings, 203,772 tons. These tonnages are exclusive of shipments included in the 2,919,479 tons of general cargo.

The tonnage of cargoes unloaded at Canadian ports during 1943 included 27,779,713 tons weight and 84,041 tons measurement, the bulk of which came from the United States. Cargoes from the United States in 1943 included 25,265,215 tons weight and 5,199 tons measurement. Cargoes from other leading countries were as follows, figures of tons measurement being in brackets: Newfoundland, St. Pierre and Miquelon, 1,411,215 (4,220); West Indies, 384,687; the United Kingdom, 372,780 (47,153); Australia, 94,775 (134); South Africa, 18,197; and Alaska, 11,249 (480).

Included in the cargoes unloaded at Canadian ports were the following: bituminous coal, 17,313,461 tons; anthracite coal, 416,703; iron ore, 3,623,974; bauxite, 492,691; crude petroleum, 3,290,187; gasoline, 125,130; petroleum oils and products, 464,547; sugar and molasses, 125,390 tons.

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## Per Capita Consumption of Bread

The average Canadian consumed 105.4 pounds of bakers' bread during the calendar year 1943, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. This was the highest annual per capita usage on record. Bread consumption has been substantially heavier during the war years, the average per capita consumption in 1939 having been 88.3 pounds, 88.9 pounds in 1940, 92.7 pounds in 1941, and 99 pounds in 1942. The amount of bread produced during 1943 was 1,244,208,000 pounds as compared with 1,153,839,000 in 1942, and 999,457,000 in 1939. Hotels, restaurants and public institutions are not required to report their own bread baking operations to the Bureau, and statistics relating to these are, therefore, not included.

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## Wire and Wire Goods Industry

The sales of plain and galvanized wire, barbed wire, wire fencing, wire nails, tacks, staples, screws, wire cloth, wire rope, bale ties, upholstering springs and other such commodities were produced to the value of \$41,117,000 in 1943, according to reports received by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics from establishments engaged chiefly in drawing iron and steel wire or in fabricating products from wire of iron or steel. In the preceding year the value was \$42,703,000.

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## Canada's External Trade in February

The external trade of Canada, excluding gold, was valued at \$352,736,000 in February as compared with \$367,638,000 in the corresponding month of last year, a reduction of 4.1 per cent. During the first two months of the current year the value was \$716,282,000 as compared with \$739,996,000 in the similar period of 1944, a decline of 3.2 per cent.

Domestic merchandise exports in February were valued at \$236,364,000 as compared with \$227,168,000 in February of last year, an advance of four per cent. The total for the two months, January and February, was \$466,862,000 as compared with \$469,180,000 in the similar period of 1944, a decline of one-half of one per cent.

Merchandise imports in February were valued at \$112,373,000 as compared with \$138,370,000 in the corresponding month of last year, a decline of 18.8 per cent. During the first two months of the current year the value was \$242,058,000 as compared with \$264,739,000 in the comparable period of 1944, a decrease of 8.6 per cent.

The value of foreign exports in February was \$3,998,000 as compared with \$2,099,000 in February of last year, the cumulative total for the first two months of this year amounting to \$7,362,000 as compared with \$6,077,000 in the same period of 1944.

### Merchandise Imports in February

The merchandise imports of Canada in February were valued at \$112,373,000 as compared with \$138,370,000 in the corresponding month of last year, a decrease of 18.8 per cent. During the first two months of the current year the aggregate value was \$242,058,000 as compared with \$264,739,000 in the comparable period of 1944, a reduction of 8.6 per cent.

The United States was the principal source of supply in February, accounting for a total of \$92,805,000 as compared with \$115,773,000 in the corresponding month of last year, a decline of 19.8 per cent. The United Kingdom was in second position with a total of \$6,741,000 as compared with \$6,698,000, an advance of 0.6 per cent.

Imports from other leading countries in February were as follows, totals for February 1944 being in brackets: British West Africa, \$1,290,000 (\$165,000); British India, \$1,363,000 (\$2,468,000); Mexico, \$1,065,000 (\$1,012,000); Venezuela, \$1,086,000 (\$903,000); British South Africa, \$594,000 (\$232,000); British Guiana, \$569,000 (\$584,000); Barbados, \$685,000 (\$509,000); Fiji, \$638,000 (\$169,000); Colombia, \$537,000 (\$437,000); Cuba, \$642,000 (\$698,000).

The following were among the principal commodities imported in February with totals for February 1944 in brackets: fruits, \$3,830,000 (\$3,985,000); vegetables, \$1,392,000 (\$1,523,000); furs, \$1,942,000 (\$1,306,000); cotton and products, \$6,970,000 (\$6,157,000); wool and products, \$2,287,000 (\$3,086,000); rolling mill products, \$3,670,000 (\$3,387,000); engines and boilers, \$2,369,000 (\$4,410,000); farm implements, \$2,935,000 (\$2,683,000); machinery, except agricultural, \$5,268,000 (\$6,700,000); vehicles, \$7,941,000 (\$9,632,000); electrical apparatus, \$3,278,000 (\$4,323,000); coal, \$6,810,000 (\$8,280,000); petroleum products, \$5,130,000 (\$5,972,000); chemicals, \$5,336,000 (\$6,148,000).

### Cattle on Canadian Farms

The number of cattle on the farms of Canada at December 1, 1944, reached a new peak for that date at 10,258,000, showing a substantial increase of 751,700 head or 7.9 per cent over the corresponding figure for 1943. The increase was common to all provinces but was particularly marked in the Prairie Provinces. The greatest increase occurred in Saskatchewan where numbers were 16.2 per cent higher at the end of 1944 than at the end of 1943.

Numbers of milk cows increased to 4,088,400 at December 1, 1944, from 3,953,000 at December 1, 1943, or by 135,400 head. Small increases occurred in all provinces. Numbers of cattle on farms have increased continuously throughout the war period and the greater number on farms are now being reflected in marketings of both cattle and calves. These increased marketings are likely to continue for some time.

### Sheep on Farms of Canada

The number of sheep on Canadian farms on December 1, 1944 was 2,821,500, an increase of 88,500 or 3.2 per cent over the corresponding date of last year. The most important increases occurred in Saskatchewan and Quebec with very little change indicated in the



other provinces. Marketings of sheep and lambs are now reflecting the increase in numbers on farms which has been in evidence for some years and should remain at relatively high levels throughout 1945.

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#### Wheat Flour Production in February

Wheat flour production in Canada in February was lower than in any other month of the present crop year, amounting to 1,892,435 barrels as compared with 2,087,705 in the corresponding month of the preceding year. Total output for the first seven months of the crop year amounted to 14,333,799 barrels as compared with 14,498,856 in the similar period of 1943-44.

Mills reporting February operations had a total milling capacity of 88,133 barrels per 24-hour day, and over a 24-day working period in the month 89.5 per cent of this was effective. The quantity of wheat ground was 8,396,081 bushels compared with 9,194,576 in February of last year. During the seven months ending February 63,632,025 bushels were ground as compared with 64,008,983 in the comparable period of 1943-44.

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#### Country General Store Sales in February

Sales of country general stores in Canada in February were three per cent higher than in the corresponding month of last year and recorded a fractional increase in business over the preceding month. Gains of six per cent in the Maritime Provinces and Manitoba were the largest among the provincial results. Unadjusted indexes of sales, on the base, 1935-1939=100, stood at 127.6 for February, 127.0 for January, and 123.9 for February 1944.

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#### Car Loadings on Canadian Railways

Car loadings on Canadian railways for the week ended March 24 declined to 67,122 cars from 68,313 for the preceding week and 69,745 for the corresponding week of last year. In the eastern division, loadings increased from 44,187 cars in 1944 to 45,877 cars, but in the western division the total decreased from 25,558 to 21,245 cars.

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#### Stocks of United States Corn in Canada

Stocks of United States corn in Canada on March 22 were sharply lower than those of a year ago, the respective totals standing at 106,746 bushels and 638,631 bushels.

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#### Production of Asphalt Roofing in February

The production of asphalt roofing in February included the following, totals for the corresponding month of last year being in brackets: asphalt shingles, 87,928 (75,424) squares; asphalt siding, 1,844 (920) squares; smooth surfaced roofing, 137,514 (122,286) squares; mineral surfaced roofing, 88,239 (79,179) squares; tar and asphalt felts, 2,061 (2,209) tons; tar and asphalt sheathing, 1,512 (987).

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#### Non-Ferrous Metal Products Industry

There were 23 plants in Canada in 1943 included in the miscellaneous non-ferrous metal products industry. The gross value of products manufactured by these firms was \$5,337,000 as compared with \$6,751,000 in the preceding year. Production included gasoline lamps, lanterns, camp stoves and irons; weatherstrip; cigarette lighters and flints for lighters; railway and marine lamps and lanterns; window screens; lamp and lantern burners; name plates, metallic packing, etc.

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## Business Conditions in February

Further decline was shown in the index of the physical volume of business in February from the first month of the year, the standing having been 216.7 against 228.8. Four of the five components recorded a decline in this comparison even after seasonal adjustment. The index of mineral production receded from 174 to about 148. The decline in manufacturing was of more moderate proportions, the drop in the index having been about four points to 270. The index of electric output was 150.1 against 151.6.

A considerable decline was shown in the index of distribution from the high level of the first month of the year, the standing having been 167.7 against 193.7. The index of tons carried on steam railways was nearly maintained at 197.8 against 198.2. Commodity distribution through retail outlets was at a slightly higher level in the latest month for which statistics are available. A marked decline was shown in wholesale transactions. Merchandise imports receded from \$129.7 million to \$112.4 million, while a gain was shown in exports from \$233.9 million to \$240.4 million.

## Reports Issued During the Week

1. Production of Asphalt Roofing, February (10 cents).
2. Sales of Asphalt Roofing, February (10 cents).
3. Canadian Grain Statistics - Weekly (10 cents).
4. Canadian Milling Statistics, February (10 cents).
5. Indexes of Country General Store Sales, February (10 cents).
6. Car Loadings on Canadian Railways (10 cents).
7. Live Stock Survey, December 1, 1944 (10 cents).
8. Summary of Canada's Imports, February (10 cents).
9. Imports of Principal Countries, February (10 cents).
10. Trade of Canada, February (10 cents).
11. The Miscellaneous Foods Industry, 1943 (25 cents).
12. Building Permits, February (10 cents).
13. Statistics of Dairy Factories, 1943 (25 cents).
14. Statistical Report on the Operation of the Unemployment Insurance Act, February (10 cents).
15. Shipping Report, 1943 (25 cents).
16. Bread and Other Bakery Products Industry, 1943 (25 cents).
17. Wire and Wire Goods Industry, 1943 (25 cents).
18. Miscellaneous Non-Ferrous Metal Products Industry, 1943 (15 cents).
19. Honey Crop, 1944 (10 cents).
20. Petroleum and Natural Gas Production; and Petroleum Fuels Sales, December (10 cents).
21. Financial Statistics of Provincial Governments, 1942 (25 cents).
22. Central Electric Stations, February (10 cents).
23. Prices and Price Indexes, February (10 cents).
24. Department Store Sales, February (10 cents).
25. Consumer Market Data (\$1.00)
26. Coal and Coke Statistics, January (10 cents).
27. Car Loadings on Canadian Railways (10 cents).



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