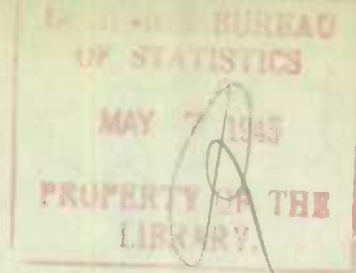


WEEKLY BULLETIN

Dominion Bureau of Statistics

Department of Trade and Commerce



Vol. XIII - No. 17

Ottawa, Saturday, May 5, 1945

Price \$1.00 per annum

Facts of Interest from Bureau Records

The kinds of stone quarried in Canada include granite, limestone, marble, sandstone, and slate. Stone of almost every known variety occurs in Canada; rocks of the igneous areas of British Columbia, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec and the Maritime Provinces exhibit a wide range of physical characteristics, some varieties being especially noted for their richness of colour and beauty of crystallization. The sedimentary rocks, including limestones, sandstones and marbles are quarried at various points in Canada. The products from quarries operating in these different formations not only yield high class structural and decorative materials but provide the chemical and other allied industries with many of their increasing requirements. The gross value of all varieties of stone produced in Canada during 1944 totalled \$6,780,000, according to preliminary figures,

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Rope-making is a very ancient industry. Constant references to it are made by writers of early times, and pictorial diagrams of the industry are found in early Egypt. Until the 19th century, ropes were laboriously made by hand, although the first rope-making machine was invented in 1792. The first machine was used in England industrially in 1820. The materials used in the manufacture of rope and cordage are hemp, jute, coir, cotton, flax, sisal, manila, and New Zealand fibre, and for the most part the fibres are spun into yarn in a similar way to that in which cotton is spun. The needs of war are reflected in the production of rope in Canada in recent years, the total advancing from 8,200,000 pounds in 1939 to 18,500,000 pounds in 1943.

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Writing ink is one of the manufactures in daily use today which reached a high degree of perfection long before our time. The use of ink dates back to the era following the invention of writing. The earliest writing inks consisted of a mixture of lampblack with a solution of glue or gum. The transition from carbon inks of the Eastern type into the modern inks took place very gradually. Pliny, Vitruvius and other classical authors mention writing inks, and old manuscripts show that its manufacture had reached a high degree of perfection in the Middle Ages. Most of the ink sold in Canada is manufactured in the Dominion, the output in 1942 amounting to 666,000 pounds valued at \$412,000.

Food Stocks on Hand in Nine Canadian Cities

The stocks of creamery butter on hand in nine of the principal cities of Canada at the opening of business on May 1 amounted to 6,063,999 pounds, being only some 200,000 pounds lower than stocks on April 1. A sharp advance was recorded over May 1, 1944 stocks when the total was 3,470,135 pounds. The stocks of cheese on May 1 increased to 12,904,875 pounds from 12,022,034 a month ago and 11,020,435 on May 1, 1944.

Shell eggs on hand on May 1 totalled 9,033,932 dozen as compared with 3,318,566 on April 1 this year and 4,932,420 on May 1, 1944. Frozen eggs, however, were reduced, stocks amounting to 6,742,642 pounds on May 1 as compared with 7,404,996 on April 1. At May 1, 1944 the stocks were more than double the current figure, the total at that time having been 15,400,020 pounds.

Country General Store Sales in March

Country general store sales in Canada recorded a pronounced increase of 13 per cent in March as compared with the corresponding month of last year, and were 24 per cent greater than in the preceding month. The increases were high for most sections of the country and were influenced considerably by the unseasonable weather prevailing in almost all parts of the country during March. Unadjusted indexes of sales, on the base 1935-1939=100, stood at 157.5 for March, 127.2 for February, and 139.1 for March, 1944. Sales during the first three months of the current year averaged 7.6 per cent higher than in the similar period of 1944.

World Wheat Situation

The concentration of the greater part of the world's wheat supplies in North America and the heavy demands which are now being made upon this stockpile have served to focus attention on the supply position in Canada and the United States. With only three months of the crop year remaining in Canada and, despite the determined effort which is being made to move the largest possible amount of wheat into export position, it does not now appear probable that the carry-over at July 31 will be less than 300 million bushels. The minimum carry-over likely in the United States at June 30 has been estimated at 350 million bushels. This prospective combined carry-over in the two countries of 650 million bushels, while only moderately below the 671 million bushels carried over in 1944, is still the lowest mid-summer stock figure since 1940.

Accumulated wheat reserves in North America increased, by virtue of near-record crops, to over a billion bushels in the summers of 1942 and 1943. The heavy use of wheat for live-stock and feed and industrial uses in the United and for feed and export in Canada had nearly halved these stocks by the close of the 1943-44 crop year. Now that domestic requirements are sloping off, the urgent need for bread grains to feed the peoples of liberated Europe promises to cut still further into accumulated reserves. The principal factor limiting the movement of wheat overseas at the present time is the relative shortage of rail and water transportation facilities.

A carry-over of 300 million bushels of wheat in Canada at the close of the present crop year would, if realized, still be larger than for any pre-war year and lends point to the Government's efforts to shift resources which have been used for the production of wheat to the growing of feed crops. Should the long-time average yield of 16 bushels per acre be realized on a seeded acreage of 21.5 million acres, as recommended by the Dominion-Provincial Conference, it would result in a crop of 344 million bushels and a probable total supply of at least 650 million bushels. This would be sufficient wheat to meet all foreseeable domestic demands and possible exports in 1945-46. The results of a survey of farmers' seeding intentions which will be available on May 9 will serve to remove a part of the uncertainty regarding Canada's wheat production in 1945.

In the United States the difference in seasons and the fact that 70 per cent of the wheat acreage is winter wheat permit a much more accurate assessment of the prospects for the new crop. The winter crop is now reported in excellent condition and, should normal weather conditions prevail for the balance of the growing season, a record out-turn of over 860 million bushels will be harvested. A part of the 19 million acres which American farmers are expected to seed to spring wheat has already been drilled. Moisture conditions are favourable throughout the spring wheat belt, although cold weather and rains have delayed seeding in the more northern areas. The present outlook for these two crops adds up to a very favourable chance of the United States harvesting another million bushel crop this season.

It is reported that winter wheat is making satisfactory progress in most western European countries. The acreage seeded last fall was low as a result of unfavourable weather and military operations. An effort has been made to encourage increased seedings of spring wheat to offset this reduced acreage of winter wheat but total plantings are still thought to be well below the pre-war average.

Clear weather in the United Kingdom has permitted field work to proceed rapidly. Moisture supplies are adequate in most areas and the wheat plant has a good appearance. The trade has estimated the acreage seeded to wheat at about one-half million acres less than the 3.3 million acres which were planted last year. This would still be well above the pre-war acreage of 1.5 million acres and with normal yields will produce over 90 million bushels. Since the annual pre-war requirements of the United Kingdom were in the neighbourhood of 275 million bushels substantial imports will again be required in the coming crop year.

France has also enjoyed a favourable spring growing season but the reduced acreage seeded to wheat will prevent her from meeting her domestic requirements. Crop prospects in North Africa are poor again this year which will likely rule out imports from one of France's traditional sources of supply. Crop conditions are also reported as unfavourable in the Danubian countries with no exportable surplus in prospect. An official estimate placed the 1945 crop in South Africa at 14 million bushels. Since requirements for the calendar year 1945 are placed at 20 million bushels the deficit is expected to be about 6 million bushels.

Stocks and Marketings of Wheat and Coarse Grains

Stocks of Canadian wheat in store or in transit in North America at midnight on April 26 totalled 347,354,969 bushels as compared with 312,805,827 bushels on the corresponding date of last year. Stocks on the latest date included 307,313,598 bushels in Canadian positions and 20,639,371 bushels in United States positions.

Deliveries of wheat from farms in the Prairie Provinces during the week ending April 26 amounted to 5,252,120 bushels as compared with 3,820,422 in the preceding week. During the elapsed portion of the present crop year, 288,427,600 bushels were delivered from farms in the Prairie Provinces as compared with 220,005,328 in the similar period of 1943-44.

The following quantities of coarse grains were also delivered from farms in western Canada during the week ending April 26, totals for the preceding week being in brackets: oats, 4,491,844 (4,309,321) bushels; barley, 574,703 (435,128); rye, 85,718 (64,919); flaxseed, 36,357 (13,856).

Business Advance in March

Productive operations in Canada recorded a minor advance in March compared with the preceding month. The increase in the index of the physical volume of business was insufficient, however, to counterbalance the decline of the preceding month. The standing was 225.2 in the third month against 216.7 in February.

Each of the five main components recorded an increase in March, considerable advances having been shown in mineral production and in the new business obtained by the construction industry.

Owing in part to a marked increase in the production of aluminium, the mining index rose from 148 in February to 173.5. Coal production showed a recession less than normal for the season, the index having been 124.5 against 120.0. Gold receipts at the Mint were 212,000 fine ounces against 208,000.

The flour milling industry was slightly less active for the latest month for which statistics are available. The index of tobacco releases receded from 250.7 to 236. Cigarettes made available were 1,008 million against 1,091 million, while a seasonal increase was shown in the release of cigars from 18.2 million to 18.7 million. Considerable gains were shown in the slaughterings of cattle and hogs, the index of slaughterings rising from 183 to 186. The increase in the output of dairy products was much greater than normal for the season. Boot and shoe production showed a decline in the latest month after seasonal adjustment.

The amount of cotton used rose from 13.5 million pounds to nearly 15 million. The general index of textile production was 133.6 against 126.5.

The forestry index rose about 10 points to 137.7. The output of newsprint was 263,776 tons as against 239,661. Gains were also recorded in the export of planks and boards and woodpulp. The index of operations in the iron and steel industry was nearly maintained at 513.5 against 516.0. The index of pig iron production rose from 221.6 to 235.6 and that of steel ingots was nearly maintained. The petroleum imports were 113 million gallons against 102.9 million in the preceding month. As the increase was less than normal for the season, the index dropped from 173 to 148.

The construction industry was more successful in obtaining new business, the adjusted index rising from 110.9 to 172.3. Considerable increase was shown both in contracts awarded and building permits. The output of electric power was considerably greater in March than in the second month of the year, the index advancing from 150 to 154.

The distribution index rose about 10 points to 177.9. Tons carried by steam railways was nearly maintained. Considerable advances were shown in commodity distribution to retail and wholesale outlets. Exports in March were \$307 million against \$240 million in the preceding month and a considerable increase was also shown in imports before seasonal adjustment.

Sales and Purchases of Securities Between Canada and Other Countries in February

Net sales of securities by Canada to other countries in February amounted to \$11,300,000 as compared with \$9,700,000 in the preceding month and \$2,900,000 in December. Sales of Canadian bonds to the United States constituted the principal element in the inflow of capital in February, the total of which amounted to \$6,700,000. Net repurchases from the United Kingdom of \$2,300,000 were distributed between Canadian bonds and stocks. There were net sales of \$300,000 to other countries. In the first two months of 1945, net sales of securities to all countries amounted to \$21,000,000 as compared with \$13,600,000 for the same period of 1944.

Sales of securities to all countries in February amounted to \$27,200,000 as compared with \$26,000,000 in the preceding month and \$16,100,000 in February of last year, while purchases totalled \$15,900,000 as compared with \$16,300,000 in January and \$8,600,000 in February, 1944. During the first two months of the current year, sales aggregated \$53,300,000 as compared with \$32,700,000 in the similar period of 1944; purchases from other countries amounted to \$32,300,000 as compared with \$19,100,000.

Employment Situation at Beginning of March

Employment in the Dominion as a whole showed a further contraction at March 1 in a seasonal movement which was of somewhat greater-than-average proportions, according to the experience of the period, 1921-1944; the loss, however, was smaller than that at March 1 of last year. The 15,129 establishments co-operating in the Dominion Bureau of Statistics' latest survey of employment and payrolls reported a combined working force of 1,813,991 men and women. As compared with 1,821,965 at February 1, there was a reduction of 7,974 persons, or 0.4 per cent. On the other hand, the weekly salaries and wages paid showed an advance, standing at \$59,528,406, as compared with the aggregate of \$58,581,035 disbursed by the same firms at the beginning of February.

The moderate recession in industrial activity lowered the index of employment, on the 1926 base, from 178.9 at February 1 to 178.2 at the date under review, as compared with 181.7 at March 1 of last year. Since the falling-off was rather above normal for the beginning of March in earlier years, the seasonally-corrected figure was also lowered, falling from 185.9 at February 1 to 185.7 at March 1.

There was a contra-seasonal recession in employment at March 1, repeating the experience at the beginning of March in 1944; these are the only two years in the record in which the trend at March 1 has been downward. The loss was not on a large scale, some 3,300 persons having been laid off since February 1. Of these, nearly 2,700 were released by animal food factories, in which employment was seasonally inactive; however, the contraction was greater than usual.

Among the non-manufacturing classes, logging, mining, transportation, construction and maintenance and trade reported curtailment, also mainly of a seasonal character. The largest losses were in retail trade and highway construction, in which they approximated 3,500 and 2,300 workers, respectively. The former decrease was about normal in extent, while that in construction as a whole was not equal to the average reduction in preceding years. In communications and services, moderate increases in employment were noted.

As already noted, the weekly payrolls reported at March 1 by the firms furnishing statistics aggregated \$59,528,406 as compared with \$58,581,035 distributed on or about February 1. The gain amounted to \$947,371, or 1.6 per cent. The average earnings of the typical individual in recorded employment reached a new high, standing at \$32.82, as compared with \$32.15 at February 1. The previous maximum was the mean of \$32.37 at April 1, 1944. At March 1, 1944, the figure had been \$32.27, that at March 1, 1943, was \$30.72, while in 1942 the per capita at March 1 was \$27.92.

Claims for Unemployment Insurance in March

The number of claims for Unemployment Insurance benefit registered in local offices of the Unemployment Insurance Commission throughout Canada in March was 13,307 as compared with 14,990 in the preceding month and 10,667 in March 1944. During the last six working days of March, 27,110 persons signed the live unemployment register as compared with 29,692 in February and 16,406 in March of last year.

Claims adjudicated at insurance offices during March totalled 15,188, of which 12,457 were considered entitled to benefit and 2,731 considered not entitled to benefit.

The chief reasons assigned for non-entitlement to benefit were: "voluntarily left employment without just cause" with 1,046 cases; "insufficient contributions while in insurable employment" with 1,025 cases; and "discharged for misconduct", 334 cases.

During March this year, 32,153 persons received one or more benefit payments, representing disbursements of \$1,523,429 for 783,399 compensated days of unemployment. This may be compared with 23,062 persons who were paid \$822,490 for 422,873 days in February and 16,679 persons paid \$755,966 for 388,544 days in March 1944.

The average duration of the unemployment compensated in the period covered by the March figures was 24.4 days compared with 18.3 days in February and 23.3 days in March 1944. The average amount paid per beneficiary was \$47.38 in March as against \$35.66 in February and \$43.32 in March last year. The average amount of benefit paid per compensated day of unemployment was \$1.94 in March, \$1.95 in February and \$1.95 in March 1944.

Unemployment Insurance in 1943

The number of persons known to have been issued Unemployment Insurance books as of April 1, 1943, covering the ensuing twelve-month period was 1,997,700, including 1,353,450 men and 644,250 women. Insurance books were issued to 450,470 men and 207,490 women in manufacturing and mechanical occupations, 141,330 men and 16,550 women in transportation and communications, 113,290 men and 200,970 women in clerical occupations, 101,640 men and 79,650 women in service, 95,860 men and 1,020 women in construction, and 73,740 men and 96,690 women in trade.

During 1943, 19,678 benefit years were established, but, since 90 persons established two benefit years, the total of persons involved was only 19,588. At the same time, 33,558 persons had benefit rights available during 1943, so that the benefit rights available in 1943 for 13,970 persons represented benefit years carried over from 1942. The 19,588 persons who established benefit years comprise only one per cent of those who might be considered potential claimants. Unemployment Insurance contributions first became payable in Canada on July 1, 1941, and benefit payments commenced in February, 1942. Relatively full employment has been maintained since that time to meet the expanding needs of Canadian and Allied armed forces and civilian populations.

The number of benefit days available in 1943 was 2,133,810, of which only 475,799 days or 22.3 per cent were paid. Since employment conditions are known to have been good in 1943, it is not surprising to find that the benefit rights available were, on the whole, much more than sufficient to meet the need for them. The number of benefit days outstanding at the beginning of 1943 was 624,524, whereas the total at the beginning of 1944 was 1,046,686. The number of benefit days authorized in 1943 was 1,509,286. A total of \$875,385 was paid out in the form of insurance benefits for the 475,799 days paid.

Cheques Cashied Against Individual Accounts in 1944

The dollar volume of cheques cashed in the 33 clearing centres of Canada during 1944 amounted to \$60,677,000, an increase of nearly \$6,900,000,000 or 12.8 per cent over 1943 and a larger amount than was recorded for any other year. The previous maximum was reached in 1943 when the total was \$53,797,000,000. The seasonally adjusted index of bank debits was well maintained throughout the year, featured by abrupt rises in May and November when Victory Loan purchases added sharply to the amount of cheques cashed. When it is recalled that the debits of 1943 were 18.2 per cent greater than during 1942, a slackening in the pace of expansion is apparent.

A majority of economic factors also indicated that the expansion of preceding war years was checked in 1944. The index of the physical volume of business recorded an increase of only 0.4 per cent. The general index of employment at 183.0 in 1944 showed a decline of 0.6 per cent, the recession being common to manufacturing, mining and construction. Minor increases were shown in prices of commodities and of high-grade bond prices. The increase in the deposit liabilities of the chartered banks was no less than 17.5 per cent. While the outstanding economic factors averaged somewhat greater than in 1943, the slackening in the advance occasioned by the magnitude of the war effort was unmistakable.

The expansion in cheques cashed was general in the five economic areas during 1944. The gain in the Prairie Provinces at nearly 25 per cent was exceptional. Advances in British Columbia and Quebec amounted to 13.3 per cent and 12 per cent, respectively.

The gain in Ontario was nine per cent, the Maritimes following with an increase of 6.7 per cent.

Eleven centres recorded bank debits in excess of one billion dollars. Montreal and the city of Quebec had debits of \$15,400,000,000 and \$1,600,000,000, respectively. The cities of Ontario in this category were Toronto, Ottawa, Hamilton and Windsor. Cheques cashed in Toronto were \$14,400,000,000, an increase of 10.3 per cent having been shown over the preceding year. The total for Ottawa augmented by governmental transactions was \$7,700,000,000, a gain of 9.4 per cent. The debits of Hamilton and Windsor were \$1,400,000,000 and \$1,000,000,000, respectively.

Four cities in the Prairie Provinces had debits of one billion dollars or more. The total for Winnipeg was nearly \$7,000,000,000, an increase of about 25 per cent having been shown over 1943. Cheques cashed in Calgary, Regina, and Edmonton were also in excess of one billion dollars. The debits of Vancouver amounted to \$3,100,000,000.

External Trade of Canada in March

The external trade of Canada, excluding gold, was valued at \$439,493,000 in March as compared with \$440,728,000 in the corresponding month of last year, a minor decrease of \$1,235,000. During the first three months of the current year, the value was \$1,155,775,000 as compared with \$1,180,725,000 in the comparable period of 1944, a reduction of \$24,950,000.

Domestic merchandise exports in March were valued at \$301,175,000 as compared with \$282,682,000 in March 1944, an increase of 6.5 per cent. During the first quarter of the present year, the value was \$738,037,000 as compared with \$751,862,000 in the same period of 1944, an advance of 2.2 per cent.

Merchandise imports in March were valued at \$132,486,000 as compared with \$150,786,000 in March of last year, a decline of 12.1 per cent. The total for the first three months of the current year was \$374,544,000 as compared with \$415,525,000 in the like period of 1944, a decrease of 9.9 per cent.

Re-exports of foreign commodities in March were valued at \$5,831,000 as compared with \$7,260,000 in March of last year, the total for the first three months of this year standing at \$13,194,000 as compared with \$13,338,000 in the same period of 1944.

Merchandise Imports in March

The merchandise imports of Canada in March were valued at \$132,486,000 as compared with \$150,786,000 in the corresponding month of last year, a decrease of 12.1 per cent. During the first three months of this year the value was \$374,544,000 as compared with \$415,525,000 in the like period of 1944, a reduction of 9.9 per cent.

The United States was the chief source of supply, March imports from that country amounting to \$105,334,000 as compared with \$123,277,000 in March 1944, and in the first quarter of the present year, \$299,954,000 as compared with \$345,328,000. The United Kingdom was in second place in March with a total of \$9,284,000 as compared with \$9,799,000, and in the three-month period, \$25,418,000 as compared with \$23,561,000.

The following were amongst the principal commodities imported in March, totals for the corresponding month of last year being in brackets: fruits, \$5,081,000 (\$4,376,000); cotton and products, \$10,281,000 (\$8,350,000); wool and products, \$4,339,000 (\$4,656,000); wood and paper, \$4,423,000 (\$3,536,000); rolling mill products, \$4,893,000 (\$4,074,000); farm implements, \$4,429,000 (\$2,624,000); machinery, except agricultural, \$7,935,000 (\$8,047,000); vehicles, \$7,754,000 (\$9,003,000); electrical apparatus, \$4,586,000 (\$5,202,000); coal, \$7,570,000 (\$8,699,000); petroleum products, \$5,915,000 (\$6,259,000).

Births, Deaths and Marriages in January

The number of births registered in cities, towns and villages of Canada, with a population of 10,000 and over, was 11,200 in January, deaths 5,355 and marriages 3,166 as compared with 10,701 births, 5,790 deaths and 3,321 marriages in January last year, showing an increase of five per cent in births and decreases of five per cent in marriages and of eight per cent in deaths.

Estimate of Tobacco Crop in 1944

The production of raw leaf tobacco in Canada in 1944 advanced to 105,410,000 pounds valued on the farms at \$31,031,100 from the 1943 crop of 69,103,900 pounds valued at \$19,646,200, according to a report issued today by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The tobacco acreage was increased to 88,844 in 1944 from 71,140 in 1943, and the average yield per acre rose to 1,186 pounds from 971. The average farm price per pound was 29.4 cents in 1944 as compared with 28.4 in 1943.

The flue-cured crop in 1944 was estimated at 87,143,000 pounds valued at \$26,815,300 as compared with 58,785,600 pounds valued at \$17,638,700 in 1943. The flue-cured tobacco acreage rose to 74,046 in 1944 from 60,120 in the preceding year. Burley production amounted to 11,800,000 pounds as compared with 6,590,800 in 1943, the respective values standing at \$2,714,000 and \$1,402,800. The burley crop is practically all sold.

Production of dark leaf tobacco in 1944 amounted to 1,496,400 pounds valued at \$308,800 as compared with 979,600 valued at \$161,900 in 1943. Cigar leaf output totalled 2,980,800 pounds valued at \$611,100 as compared with 2,270,000 valued at \$340,500. Large, medium and small pipe tobaccos amounted to 1,990,800 pounds as compared with 477,700 in 1943, and the value rose to \$581,900 from \$102,300.

Railway Revenue Freight in 1944

Railway revenue freight loaded at stations in Canada showed an increase in 1944 for the sixth consecutive year, increasing from 56,583,935 tons in 1938 to 106,156,732 tons in 1944, or by 88 per cent. The advance over 1943 was 5.8 per cent, the smallest rate in the six-year period. Imports increased from 8,874,045 tons in 1938 to 22,824,032 tons in 1943 and decreased to 20,132,314 tons in 1944. Freight carried between foreign points showed a decrease from 1943 of 1,242,046 tons or 4.2 per cent, but was 177 per cent greater than for 1938.

Loadings of wheat increased from 12,822,249 tons in 1943 to 18,711,646 tons in 1944 - a total which was second only to the record of 18,919,881 tons loaded in 1928, and almost four times the tonnage loaded in 1937. Loadings of hogs increased to 580,490 tons, an increase of 20 per cent over 1943 and 258 per cent over 1938. Loadings of bituminous coal decreased and imports also were down, the combined tonnage showing a decrease of 818,070 tons. Imports of anthracite coal declined by 312,620 tons or 7.4 per cent. Imports of other ores and concentrates declined from 3,184,285 to 1,544,508 tons. This was largely bauxite.

Shipments of crude petroleum between foreign stations declined from 3,824,832 to 957,218 tons. This movement was affected by the completion of pipe lines to the United States - Atlantic ports, and also resumption of tanker service from Gulf ports. Imports by rail increased from 332,072 to 692,888 tons; the pipe line from Portland to Montreal showed an increase in oil handled from 11,175,188 barrels in 1943 to 16,494,947 barrels.

Loadings of gasoline increased by 23,082 tons, imports by 92,806 tons, and shipments between United States stations increased by 1,457,989 tons. Loadings of iron and steel (bar-sheet-structural-pipe) decreased from 1,609,872 to 1,246,637 tons and imports decreased from 1,070,696 to 686,334 tons. Loadings of automobiles and parts declined from 2,253,084 to 2,009,565 tons; this includes military trucks and parts. Beverages loaded increased to 550,202 tons from 488,833 tons in 1943 and 211,880 tons in 1938, and the tonnage unloaded at Canadian stations showed approximately the same rates of increase. Loadings of cordwood and other firewood increased from 1,173,123 to 1,380,102 tons and loadings of pulpwood and lumber also increased.

Car Loadings on Canadian Railways

Car loadings on Canadian railways for the week ended April 21 declined to 70,323 cars from 70,826 in the preceding week, but were slightly above loadings of 70,224 cars for the corresponding week of last year. Loadings in the eastern division increased from 43,627 cars in 1944 to 46,570 cars, but in the western division the total decreased from 26,597 to 23,753 cars, due mainly to lighter loadings of grain, coal, live stock, ore and concentrates, base bullion, and gasoline and petroleum oils. In the eastern division, pulpwood increased by 1,265 cars, gasoline and petroleum by 309 cars, and grain by 567 cars.

Revenues and Expenses of Railways in January

The earnings of Canadian railways for January declined to \$58,388,550 from \$59,119,240 in the corresponding month of last year. The decrease was all in freight revenues which declined by \$1,285,162 or 2.9 per cent. Operating expenses increased from \$47,842,183 to \$50,758,561 and the operating income declined from \$7,481,283 to \$4,687,065. Freight traffic, as measured in ton miles, decreased by 11.2 per cent, and passenger traffic by two per cent.

Operating revenues of Canadian lines of the Canadian National Railways declined to \$28,546,400 in January from \$28,901,300 in January, 1944. Operating expenses increased by \$455,272 or 1.8 per cent and the operating income declined from \$3,511,527 to \$2,724,662. The United States lines also showed reduced revenues and increased expenses, making the system operating revenue \$32,568,000 as against \$33,096,000, and the operating income \$2,947,902 as against \$4,033,704 in 1944.

Operating revenues of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company showed a small increase, advancing to \$24,234,515 from \$24,069,883 in January, 1944. Operating expenses increased by \$2,326,853 or 12.4 per cent and the operating income declined from \$2,838,513 to \$1,661,878 or by \$1,176,635.

Financing of Motor Vehicle Sales in March

The financing of sales of new and used motor vehicles in Canada during March totalled 2,422 units with a financed value of \$1,276,849, being down 19 per cent in number and up five per cent in amount of financing from the 2,979 vehicles financed in March last year for \$1,220,652. Included in the totals for March this year were 257 new vehicles financed to the extent of \$376,680.

Used vehicle financing declined 24 per cent in number and 13 per cent in dollar volume in March of this year compared with the same month of 1944. All regions for which separate figures are compiled recorded decreases with the exception of Quebec where increases of 12 per cent in number and 68 per cent in dollar volume were recorded. The much greater increase in dollar volume than the number of units financed in Quebec reflects the inclusion in the figures for March this year of a number of vehicles of high value consisting chiefly of buses rather than passenger models.

There were 630 new vehicles financed in the first three months of 1945 compared with 416 new vehicles financed in the corresponding period of 1944. Used vehicles financed during the same three months totalled 5,025 in 1945 and 6,962 in 1944.

Production of Automobiles in March

Production of motor vehicles in Canada during March totalled 14,912 units compared with 13,090 in the preceding month and 14,625 in the corresponding month of last year. During the first three months of the current year there were 41,747 units produced as compared with 42,257 in the first quarter of 1944. Production was limited to trucks, buses, chassis, and military vehicles.

Production of Iron and Steel in March

Production of pig iron in Canada in March amounted to 165,517 net tons as compared with 149,487 in the preceding month and 168,047 in the corresponding month of last year. The total for the first three months of the present year was 471,273 net tons as compared with 442,053 in the first quarter of 1944. The March output included 134,325 tons of basic iron, 16,924 tons of foundry iron and 14,568 tons of malleable iron.

March production of steel ingots and steel castings totalled 277,461 net tons as compared with 250,464 in February and 275,539 in March, 1944, the total for the first quarter of this year amounting to 796,647 net tons as compared with 747,577 in the comparable period of last year. The total for March this year included 261,524 net tons of ingots and 15,937 tons of castings.

Ferro-alloys output in March amounted to 16,434 net tons as compared with 13,402 in the preceding month and 13,427 in March, 1944. The total for the first three months of this year amounted to 41,966 net tons as compared with 44,642 in the similar period of 1944.

Registrations of Motor Vehicles in 1943

There were 23,123 fewer passenger motor vehicles registered in Canada in 1943 than in the preceding year and 85,709 fewer than in 1941, according to a report issued by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. An advance was recorded in the registration of commercial vehicles, the increase over 1942 having been 10,237 units and over 1941, 22,851 units.

The total number of motor vehicles registered in 1943, including those belonging to the Department of National Defence using the public highways, was 1,511,845 as compared with 1,524,153 in 1942 and 1,572,784 in 1941. Passenger car registrations fell to 1,193,847 in 1943 from 1,216,950 in 1942 and 1,279,536 in 1941, while commercial vehicle registrations increased to 301,622 from 291,385 in 1942 and 278,771 in 1941. Motor cycles also increased, the registrations in 1943 numbering 16,396 as compared with 15,818 in 1942 and 14,477 in 1941.

Revenues from registrations of motor vehicles, drivers, etc., and provincial gasoline taxes in 1943 aggregated \$86,842,000 as compared with \$85,323,000 in the preceding year. The revenues from vehicle registrations, drivers, etc., totalled \$29,627,000 as compared with \$26,974,000 in 1942, and from provincial gasoline taxes \$57,215,000 as compared with \$56,824,000; during the fiscal year ended March 31, 1943, the Dominion Government collected \$24,752,000 from the three cents per gallon tax on gasoline as compared with \$24,898,000 in 1942. The gross sales of gasoline for all purposes in 1943 amounted to 903,592,000 gallons as compared with 897,807,000 in 1942.

Food Retailing in Canada in 1941

Retail sales of food products through all types of retail stores are estimated at \$865,123,100 for 1941. In addition, retail sales made by manufacturing bakeries amounted to \$52,664,100 and retail sales by manufacturing dairies totalled another \$40,385,600. These figures are exclusive of the sale of meals in restaurants, retail stores, hotels or other public eating places, which, in total are estimated at another \$149,345,500. Thus, total food sales, including the sale of food products through retail stores, retail sales by manufacturing bakeries and dairies and the estimated known value of the sale of meals amounted to more than \$1,100,000,000 in 1941.

Wholesale Sales in March

Wholesale sales in March advanced six per cent over the dollar volume of trading realized in the corresponding month of last year, according to data received from the larger wholesale establishments in Canada representing nine lines of business. The March general unadjusted index of sales, on the base 1935-1939=100, stands at 202.4 as compared with 178.6 for February and 190.9 for March, 1944. Cumulative sales for the first three months of the year were 10 per cent greater than sales transacted in the same period of 1944.

Output of Central Electric Stations in March

Central electric stations produced 3,586,515,000 kilowatt hours during March as compared with 3,124,235,000 in the preceding month and 3,516,052,000 in the corresponding month of last year. The advance over March 1944 was all in secondary power, the output of which increased from 245,954,000 to 640,063,000 kilowatt hours. Primary power production decreased by 10 per cent, the largest change-over being in Quebec where the primary total decreased by 403,902,000 kilowatt hours, and the secondary power total advanced by 371,985,000 kilowatt hours.

Consumption of primary power in March, including line losses, declined from 3,149,450,000 kilowatt hours in March of last year to 2,827,510,000, or by 10 per cent. The total for the first quarter of this year was reduced to 8,159,478,000 kilowatt hours from last year's corresponding total of 9,306,157,000 kilowatt hours. Exports to the United States in March increased to 215,791,000 kilowatt hours from 198,574,000, the advance being in secondary power. Exports during the first three months of 1945 amounted to 533,587,000 kilowatt hours as compared with 589,630,000 in the similar period of 1944.

Retail Chains in Canada in 1943

Considerable decreases from 1941 in the number of retail chain stores and chain companies in operation in conjunction with gains in the dollar volume of business featured the operations of retail chains in 1942 and 1943, according to results of a survey compiled by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

The number of chains, that is, firms operating four or more retail outlets, declined from 533 in 1941 to 459 and 448 in the two following years. Reductions in the number of firms were probably due in principal part to the closure of one or more stores by small multiple concerns, the number of their remaining stores not being sufficient to warrant the classification of these concerns as chain companies.

Decreases in the number of chain units from 8,012 in 1941 to 7,193 and 7,074 in 1942 and 1943 were accompanied by expansion in total sales, the turnover rising from \$642,636,700 in the census year to \$692,188,700 in 1942 and to \$708,249,100 in 1943, representing gains of about eight per cent in sales in 1942 over 1941 and a smaller expansion of about two per cent in sales in 1943 over the preceding year.

Reports Issued During the Week

1. Monthly Indexes of Wholesale Sales, March (10 cents).
 2. Monthly Indexes of Country General Store Sales, March (10 cents).
 3. Food Retailing in Canada, 1941 (25 cents).
 4. The Highway and the Motor Vehicle, 1943 (25 cents).
 5. Canadian Grain Statistics (10 cents).
 6. Women's Factory Clothing Industry, 1943 (25 cents).
 7. Retail Chains in Canada, 1943 (25 cents).
 8. The Grain Situation in Argentina (10 cents).
 9. Operating Revenues, Expenses and Statistics of Railways, January (10 cents).
 10. Registrations of Births, Deaths and Marriages, January (10 cents).
 11. Central Electric Stations, March (10 cents).
 12. Advance Preliminary Statement of Stocks of Canadian Butter, Cheese and Eggs in Principal Cities of Canada, May 1 (10 cents).
 13. Imports by Principal Countries, March (10 cents).
 14. Summary of Canada's Imports, March (10 cents).
 15. Trade of Canada, March (10 cents).
 16. Sales and Purchases of Securities Between Canada and Other Countries, February (10 cents).
 17. Monthly Traffic Report of Railways, January (10 cents).
 18. Employment Situation, March (10 cents).
 19. Automobile Production, March (10 cents).
 20. Cheques Cashed Against Individual Accounts, 1944 (25 cents).
 21. Domestic Sales of Asphalt Roofing, March (10 cents).
 22. Production of Asphalt Roofing, March (10 cents).
 23. Tobacco Crop Report (10 cents).
 24. Annual Report on Current Benefit Years Under the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1943 (25 cents).
 25. Awning, Tent and Sail Industry, 1943 (15 cents).
 26. Monthly Review of the Wheat Situation (10 cents).
 27. Monthly Financing of Motor Vehicle Sales, March (10 cents).
 28. Production of Iron and Steel, March (10 cents).
 29. Railway Revenue Freight Loadings, March (10 cents).
 30. Car Loadings on Canadian Railways (10 cents).
 31. Statistics Report on the Operation of the Unemployment Insurance Act, March (10 cents).
 32. Summary of Monthly Railway Traffic Reports, 1944 (25 cents).
 33. Motor Carriers, Freight- Passenger, 1943 (25 cents).
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