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Facts of Interest from Bureau Records

Modern cement-making is an industry, really an art, which was lost for ages but re-discovered in the middle of the 18th century by the famous Scottish engineer Smeaton who built the first Eddystone Lighthouse that withstood the stress of wind and sea. The Egyptians, the Carthaginians and the Romans all knew about cement and used it. The Pyramids are a proof of this fact. When the glory of Rome faded, cement-making seems to have vanished utterly and later builders were nonplussed to duplicate the enduring structures of the ancient architects until Smeaton, looking for some substitute for lime mortar which would set hard under water, hit upon it by burning impure limestone mixed with clay. Portland cement first appeared in 1824. An English stone mason, Joseph Aspdin, made it. His cement was called Portland because it bore a fancied resemblance to building stone quarried on the Isle of Portland. The production of Portland cement in Canada in 1943 amounted to 7,302,000 barrels, as compared with 4,509,000 in 1936 and 12,284,000 in 1929.

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Canadian sandstone has been utilized extensively in the construction of many important public buildings in Canada and is favoured as a material in the construction of the better type home. The rock occurs in Canada in a variety of colours, including white, reddish brown, yellow and grey. Shipments of sandstone were made in 1942 from quarries located in all of the provinces with the exception of Prince Edward Island, Manitoba and Saskatchewan. The greater part of the crude output in 1942 was employed as rubble and riprap and in the crushed state for concrete, highway construction and railroad ballasting. Sandstone in British Columbia, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia has been employed in the manufacture of abrasive wheels and sharpening stones. Considerable tonnages of Canadian sandstone are also employed as flux in the smelting of ores.

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The Chinese were the first to discover a practical method of paper making by the weaving of fibres. They made paper first on coarsely woven cloth moulds and later with moulds of thin, parallel bamboo strips, held in place by silk threads. The Arabs of Samarkand acquired the art from the Chinese, and they were followed by the Persians. The Moors introduced it into Europe in the 12th century via Spain, whence it was carried into Italy, France, the Netherlands and Germany. Paper making was begun in England in 1492, but apparently died out until reintroduced nearly a hundred years later. It did not become firmly established there, however, until the closing years of the 17th century. The production of paper in Canada dates from 1803. In 1917, when accurate statistics of paper production were compiled for the first time, the output totalled 856,000 tons. In 1943, the production was almost five times that figure.

Cotton Textile Industries of Canada

The cotton textile industries of Canada produced goods with a factory selling value of \$149,920,000 in 1943, a decrease of \$14,529,000 or almost nine per cent as compared with the preceding year. Peak war-time production in this industry as a whole was reached in 1942. In 1939 the valuation was \$81,230,000. Employment was given to 27,076 persons in 1943, being a reduction of 2,318 from the 1942 total, while the amount paid out in salaries and wages at \$32,331,000 recorded a decline of slightly more than two per cent.

All fabrics produced in 1943, other than for use in the manufacture of tires, had a value of \$86,223,000 as against \$98,424,000 in 1942. Grey cotton fabric was the main item and in 1943 a total of 70,008,000 pounds or 189,409,000 yards were produced with a selling value at the factory of \$33,371,000. The 1942 production was 82,282,000 pounds or 230,958,000 yards worth \$35,307,000. In connection with this particular item, it should be noted that a very considerable yardage goes to other mills for further processing, the amount so disposed of in 1943 totalling 102,536,000 yards.

Yarns spun for sale in 1943 had a valuation of \$18,131,000 compared with \$19,857,000 in 1942. Tire fabrics produced were valued at \$9,998,000 in 1943 and \$9,004,000 in 1942. For the same two years, cotton thread was produced to the value of \$6,276,000 and \$6,085,000 respectively. Other important items included blankets, towels, etc. The principal material used in this industry is raw cotton, and in 1943 its consumption amounted to 198,751,000 pounds, with a laid down cost of \$46,254,000, or an average of 23.3 cents per pound.



## Estimates of Food Consumption in Canada

Estimates of food supplies moving into civilian consumption in Canada in 1944 do not show any material changes from 1943 except in the case of fruits and vegetables where better than average crops together with greater imports resulted in the substantial improvement in per capita supplies. The 1944 levels of consumption are, for most items, appreciably higher than before the war although there was some decline in the rationed commodities, particularly sugar and, to a lesser extent, butter. The figures indicate, therefore, that despite the substantial contribution that Canada has been making to the food supplies of Britain and other United Nations, agricultural production in Canada has been sufficient to meet those demands and at the same time provide additional supplies for our own civilian population.

Consumption of dairy production, other than butter, has increased continuously throughout the war period and supplies of fluid milk were in 1944, 120 per cent of the average of 1935-39. Cheese consumption, although still relatively small in Canada, shows an increase of 18 per cent over pre-war. The average for all dairy products converted to a milk solid basis was 120 per cent of the pre-war level.

Meat consumption in 1944 was slightly lower than in the preceding year but 126 per cent of the pre-war average. The reduction from 1943 occurred almost entirely in beef which dropped from 69.3 pounds per capita to 61.7 pounds. Slight increases are recorded for other categories of meat excepting the canned product which dropped from 2.3 pounds to 2.1 pounds per capita. The consumption of all meats on a carcass basis totalled 149.1 pounds in 1944 as compared with 155.5 pounds in 1943 and the pre-war average of 118.4 pounds.

Some reduction in supplies of both fresh and canned fish in 1944 resulted in a reduction in the total supplies of poultry and fish available to consumers from 31.4 pounds in 1943 to 29.0 pounds in 1944. The comparable figure for 1935-39 was 26.0 pounds. Consumption of eggs has increased steadily throughout the war period and in 1944 averaged 36.4 pounds or 24.3 dozen per person as compared with 35.3 pounds in 1943 and 30.7 pounds before the war.

Although lard, shortening and other oils and fats were in reduced supply in 1944, final figures on butter consumption indicate an increase of two pounds per capita in this commodity with the result that the 1944 estimate of the fat content of total oils and fats was 41.0 pounds as compared with 43.3 pounds in 1943 and 41.4 pounds in the pre-war period. Supplies of refined sugar entering civilian consumption in all forms were somewhat higher in 1944 than in 1943 and, when included with the sugar content of maple and other syrups, honey and molasses, resulted in a total consumption of sugars of 95.6 pounds for 1944 compared with 87.6 pounds in the preceding year and 104.0 pounds in 1935-39.

Better than average crops on increased acreage of fresh fruits and vegetables resulted in sharp increases over the preceding year and over the pre-war years. Total consumption in pounds of tomatoes and citrus fruits amounted to 109.8 in 1944 as compared with 58.8 before the war. Similarly the supplies of other fruits increased from 80.2 pounds before the war to 90.8 pounds for 1944. Similar increases are recorded for all classes of vegetables. The estimates of flour consumption indicate a decline from 1943 to 1944 although in making these estimates it has not been possible to adjust for changes in stocks of flour in the hands of wholesalers or retailers. Supplies of both tea and coffee improved in 1944 as compared with the preceding year. Coffee supplies were substantially higher than before the war although those of tea are still 17 per cent below the pre-war average.

## Cost of Living Index for April

The Dominion Bureau of Statistics cost-of-living index, on the base 1935-39=100 stood at 118.7 on April 2, having been unchanged from the standing of the preceding month. A year ago it was 119.1. The wartime advance in the cost of living index was 17.8 per cent. There was a reduction in the fuel and light group index from 107.3 in March to 106.7 for April, and an increase in the clothing index from 121.7 to 121.8, but these changes were insufficient to alter the general index.

The decline in the fuel and light index reflected further decreases in electricity rates, mainly in Ontario and the Maritime area. The April 2 domestic electricity rate index of 86.7 was substantially below pre-war levels. Scattered price changes in foods were all of a minor character, and left the food group unchanged at 131.0. Other group



indexes were also the same as for March, rentals at 112.0, homefurnishings and services at 118.5, and miscellaneous items at 109.2.

#### Index Numbers of Wholesale Prices

The composite weekly wholesale index of Canadian farm products, on the base 1926=100, rose 0.5 points to 105.6 between the weeks of March 30 and April 27. Animal products recorded a gain of 0.6 to 124.4, reflecting higher prices for livestock which outweighed fractional weakness in eggs. Upturns for grains and potatoes were responsible for an increase of 0.5 to 94.4 in the field products sub-group. Prices for onions and hay were lower.

A composite index for 30 industrial materials moved up 0.3 points to 100.6 between March 30 and April 27. Strength in food materials was mainly responsible for the advance, an index for this series gaining one point to 101.4 on higher prices for steers and hogs. The index for 13 manufacturing materials, reflecting strength in raw cotton quotations, moved up 0.3 to 84.8 between March 30 and April 27, while the stable index, composed of 12 commodities, held unchanged at 120.6.

#### Production of Crude Petroleum in January

The Canadian production of crude petroleum and natural gasoline in January was recorded at 881,821 barrels as compared with 885,383 in the preceding month and 837,432 in the corresponding month of last year. Of the January 1945 output, Alberta accounted for 744,167 barrels, Northwest Territories 123,749, Ontario 7,052, and New Brunswick 1,853 barrels.

#### Production of Natural Gas in January

Production of natural gas in January amounted to 5,780,541,000 cubic feet as compared with 5,435,031,000 in the preceding month and 5,443,453,000 in January, 1944. The January 1945 output included 4,561,118,000 cubic feet from Alberta, 1,125,581,000 from Ontario, 74,350,000 from New Brunswick and 19,492,000 from Saskatchewan.

#### Sales of Gasoline in 1944

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

Sales in 1944 were as follows by provinces in thousands of gallons, totals for 1943 being in brackets: Prince Edward Island, 9,295 (7,881); Nova Scotia, 43,462 (42,465); New Brunswick, 28,077 (27,256); Quebec, 178,879 (147,047); Ontario, 315,977 (509,489); Manitoba, 70,399 (63,376); Saskatchewan, 119,840 (104,177); Alberta, 120,160 (114,968); British Columbia, 84,383 (86,934).

#### Car Loadings on Canadian Railways

Car loadings on Canadian railways for the week ended April 28 amounted to 71,295 cars as compared with 70,323 in the preceding week and 71,455 in the corresponding week of last year. In the eastern division, loadings increased from 43,703 cars in 1944 to 46,006, but in the western division the total declined from 27,752 cars to 25,289.

#### Farm Implements and Machinery Industry in 1943

Production by the 37 establishments included in the farm implements and machinery industry was 27 per cent higher in value in 1943 than in 1942 and 65 per cent higher than in 1941. Actual values, at factory prices, were \$56,952,569 in 1943, \$44,678,078 in 1942, and \$34,422,202 in 1941. The advance in the value of production in 1943, as in the two previous years, was due entirely to special war work, such as motor vehicle bodies, aircraft parts, etc. The output of farm equipment in this industry amounted to \$18,429,964 in 1943, \$19,087,554 in 1942 and \$20,457,737 in 1941. In other industries there was a small production of farm machinery, amounting to \$500,000 in 1943, \$550,000 in 1942 and \$1,953,000 in 1941.



## Artificial and Real Silk Industry in 1943

The gross value of products manufactured by the Canadian artificial and real silk industry in 1943 was \$50,440,000 as compared with \$48,056,000 in the preceding year, an increase of about five per cent. Fabrics woven from artificial silk yarn, and from artificial silk mixed with other fibres, represented the greater part of the production. Fabric woven entirely from continuous filament artificial silk yarn totalled 44,834,713 yards valued at \$21,213,918 in 1943 and 51,177,690 yards with a value of \$23,673,054 in 1942. The use of spun rayon is increasing and fabrics spun from this type of artificial silk yarn were reported to the extent of 6,834,268 yards worth \$3,235,383 in 1943 as against 6,403,346 yards valued at \$2,595,650 in 1942.

Rayon staple fibre was used to the extent of 4,045,405 pounds worth \$1,379,186. Under purchased yarns consumed, continuous filament viscose, acetate and bemberg together totalled 7,260,688 pounds worth \$5,742,995, spun rayon, including spun rayon mixtures, 1,251,642 pounds worth \$856,202, and cotton 1,852,875 pounds worth \$1,161,547. Dye-stuffs, chemicals, etc. used were valued at \$2,826,863, the large total being partly due to the use of chemicals in the conversion of wood pulp, etc. into artificial silk. In 1943 a shortage of cotton linters necessitated the experimental production of acetate from wood pulp.

## Trends in Food Distribution in March

Wholesale food sales were two per cent greater in March this year than last. The advance reflects a gain of eight per cent in wholesale fruit and vegetable sales, while the dollar volume of wholesale grocery trading remained unchanged from March, 1944, according to data received by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics from 74 of the larger wholesale grocery establishments and 47 fruit and vegetable wholesalers.

Sales of 947 chain store units operated by 27 chain companies in the food retailing field averaged 14 per cent higher in March than sales of 965 units operated in March a year ago. Average sales per store were \$18,165 as compared with \$15,601. Sales reported by 1,213 independent stores operating in the food retailing field were 10 per cent higher than in March of last year.

## Indexes of Retail Sales in March

The early date of Easter and the unseasonably warm weather which characterized March this year are reflected in retail trade statistics for that month. Index numbers of sales, based on reports received from a sample number of firms representing 14 trades dealing chiefly in food, clothing and household requirements indicate that dollar sales in March this year averaged almost 20 per cent higher than in March 1944, and were up by 33 per cent from February. The general index of retail sales, unadjusted for differences in numbers of business days or for seasonal variations stood at 194.9 for March, 146.7 for February and 162.9 for March, 1944. Total sales for the first quarter of 1945 averaged 11 per cent above the corresponding period of 1944 and 53 per cent above the similar period of 1941.

While all lines of business for which figures are available reported higher sales in March this year compared with last, the most outstanding gains were recorded by stores specializing in clothing or footwear, commodities whose sales are stimulated most by the pre-Easter trade. Shoe stores registered an increase of no less than 67 per cent, family clothing stores 54 per cent, women's clothing stores 48 per cent and men's clothing stores 40 per cent. Sales of furniture stores advanced 20 per cent, hardware stores 29 per cent, jewellery stores 23 per cent, department stores 25 per cent, and variety stores 34 per cent.

## Stocks and Marketings of Wheat and Coarse Grains

Stocks of Canadian wheat in store or in transit in North America at midnight on May 3 totalled 321,588,226 bushels as compared with 306,319,670 on the corresponding date of last year. Stocks on the latest date included 301,004,993 bushels in Canadian positions and 20,583,233 bushels in United States positions.

Deliveries of wheat from farms in the three Prairie Provinces during the week ending May 3 totalled 3,351,592 bushels as compared with 5,280,802 in the preceding week. During the elapsed portion of the present crop year, marketings in western



Canada totalled 291,807,874 bushels as compared with 223,867,244 in the corresponding period of the crop year 1943-44.

The following quantities of coarse grains were also delivered from farms in the Prairie Provinces during the week ending May 3, totals for the preceding week being in brackets: oats, 2,846,201 (4,507,830) bushels; barley, 395,826 (582,824); rye, 42,155 (86,839); flaxseed, 19,696 (36,659).

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#### Production of Wheat Flour in March

Wheat flour production in March amounted to 2,160,706 barrels as compared with 2,267,307 in the corresponding month of last year. Output in March was the second highest monthly output for the present crop year, the November total of 2,306,607 barrels having been in first place. Total flour production for the first eight months of the present crop year amounted to 16,494,505 barrels, a decline of 271,658 barrels from that produced in the corresponding period of the preceding crop year.

The quantity of wheat milled into flour in March amounted to 9,602,488 bushels as compared with 9,921,561 in the corresponding month of last year, the total for the first eight months of the present crop year amounting to 73,234,513 bushels as compared with 73,930,544 for the same period of 1943-44. The grind of coarse grains in March was as follows, totals for March 1944 being in brackets: oats, 2,141,040 (1,900,103) bushels; corn, 186,950 (202,050); barley, 638,365 (808,970); buckwheat, 186 (2,027); mixed grains, 2,336,066 (2,366,300).

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#### Acreage Intentions for Field Crops in 1945

Canadian farmers have indicated that they will this year seed 869,700 fewer acres to wheat than they did in 1944, according to information secured by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics from crop correspondents on April 30. The decrease in wheat acreage will be taken up by an increase in the acreages to be seeded to oats, barley and flaxseed. The 19,236,400 acres intended for summer-fallow differs little from the 19,427,700 acres which were summerfallowed in 1944. Events subsequent to April 30 may alter farmers' intentions, and this reservation must be borne in mind when interpreting these data.

The acreage intended for wheat in 1945 is 22,414,500 acres as compared with 23,284,200 acres in 1944. Practically all of the contraction in wheat acreage is indicated for the Prairie Provinces, where the indicated wheat acreage for 1945 is 21,577,000 acres as compared with 22,443,800 acres seeded in 1944, or an over-all decrease of 866,800 acres. Manitoba's intended wheat acreage exhibits the largest decline of 505,800 acres, while Alberta shows a decrease of 261,000 acres and Saskatchewan 100,000 acres. Farmers have stressed the effect of a late spring season in causing them to shift from wheat to coarse grains and flaxseed.

For the Dominion as a whole the indicated acreage to be seeded to oats is 15,057,100 acres, as compared with 14,315,000 acres in 1944. Nearly all of the increase is again to be found in the Prairie Provinces with Manitoba farmers intending to plant eight per cent more, Saskatchewan farmers seven per cent more and Alberta farmers six per cent more acres to oats. The other six provinces are holding very close to the 1944 seeded acreage. The over-all increase for the Dominion amounts to about five per cent.

The intended barley acreage for Canada is placed at 8,071,600 acres, as compared with 7,290,700 acres in 1944, or an increase of 11 per cent. A small decrease in the intended barley acreage in the eastern provinces is offset by an indicated increase of 794,600 acres in the Prairie Provinces. Alberta's prospective increase of 15 per cent is the largest, followed by an indicated increase of 12 per cent in Saskatchewan and eight per cent in Manitoba.

The acreage intended for flaxseed in 1945 is reported at 1,212,500 acres as compared with 1,323,100 in 1944, or a decrease of eight per cent. The largest relative decrease is in the province of Alberta, where farmers indicate that they will seed only 80 per cent of last year's flaxseed acreage. Saskatchewan farmers plan to seed 88 per cent of last year's acreage and it is in this province that over two-thirds of the total acreage is normally seeded. Manitoba farmers plan to increase their flaxseed acreage by 27 per cent.

- It was estimated at the end of April that three per cent of the 682,000 acres
- seeded to fall wheat in Ontario in 1944 for this year's harvest was winter-killed,
- leaving 662,000 acres growing at that time. The condition of the crop on April 30
- was 103 per cent of normal compared with 91 per cent a year earlier and 83 per cent at
- the end of April, 1943. Approximately 22,000 acres of fall rye in Ontario and the three
- Prairie Provinces were lost through winter-killing or six per cent of the total area
- seeded last fall. The condition figure at the end of April was 85 per cent of normal,
- compared with 91 per cent a year earlier.

Winter-killing of hay and clover meadows in Canada during the winter of 1944-45 amounted to about three per cent compared with five per cent the previous year. The average condition of these crops at the end of April this year was 98 per cent of normal or slightly better than a year earlier.

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Reports Issued During the Week

1. Canadian Grain Statistics (10 cents).
  2. Canadian Milling Statistics, March (10 cents).
  3. Acreage Intentions for Field Crops (10 cents).
  4. The Glass Industry, 1943 (15 cents).
  5. The Cotton Textile Industries, Canada, 1943 (35 cents).
  6. Farm Implements and Machinery Industry, 1943 (25 cents).
  7. Car Loadings on Canadian Railways (10 cents).
  8. Price Movements, April (10 cents).
  9. Miscellaneous Chemical Products Industry, 1943 (15 cents).
  10. Food Consumption in Canada (10 cents).
  11. Current Trends in Food Distribution, March (10 cents).
  12. Monthly Indexes of Retail Sales, March (10 cents).
  13. Artificial and Real Silk Industry, 1943 (25 cents).
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