

WEEKLY BULLETIN

Dominion Bureau of Statistics

Department of Trade and Commerce

DOMINION BUREAU
OF STATISTICS
JUN 18 1945
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Vol. XIII - No. 23

Ottawa, Saturday, June 16, 1945

Price \$1.00 per annum

Crop Conditions in Canada

Crops across the Dominion are gradually recovering from the handicap imposed upon them by a late spring season. A considerable area in Saskatchewan and Alberta now requires rain and farmers everywhere are looking for warm weather. Crop prospects are, however, generally more favourable.

Cool, wet weather continued throughout the Maritimes during the past two weeks and the seeding of grain has been considerably delayed. Hay meadows and pastures are in good condition and excellent progress has been made in planting the potato crop; the acreage is reported to be large.

Crop prospects have improved materially in Quebec as a result of more favourable weather during the past two weeks. The late spring season has, however, delayed seeding operations to such an extent that the total area of spring grains will be considerably below earlier intentions. Meadows and pastures have shown excellent growth and milk production has been above last year. Vegetable and root crops will be late but are now making excellent growth. Warmer weather during the past week has permitted Ontario farmers to proceed with seeding of spring grains and the planting of corn, beans and other late-sown crops. The late spring will undoubtedly result in a substantial reduction in grain acreage and good growing weather will be necessary to mature the crop. Fall wheat is generally fair to good. Hay and pastures are spotty and the yield will probably be below average.

In the prairies all of the wheat has now been seeded and although no information on acreage is available as yet, it is thought that seedings will be considerably below earlier intentions, particularly in Manitoba. Temperatures, generally, over the Prairies continue to range below normal and rainfall, with the exception of some areas in Saskatchewan and in south-western Alberta, are below normal. Some districts within the Red River Valley of Manitoba continue to report excessive moisture, which is delaying the seeding of late crops. Conditions are most advanced in the south-west corner where wheat is reported to vary from one to six inches in height and oats from one to five inches. Moisture conditions in Manitoba are adequate, although growth of most pastures has been retarded.

Wheat seeding is completed in Saskatchewan and the seeding of coarse grains and flax will soon be finished. Wheat growth is reported good, but coarse grains only fair since the moisture supplies necessary for the development of the later sown crops have been inadequate. Some damage from soil drifting has occurred in the south-central areas and wire worms are now putting in an appearance. The south-centre and the south-west need rain.

Conditions in Alberta are varied with the south-west, which was extremely dry last summer, now in excellent condition. Points along the foothills south of Calgary have received up to three times their normal rainfall since April 1. Crops and pastures are responding rapidly to these favourable moisture conditions. Drought is still being experienced in the whole of central Alberta and coarse grains and wheat which were seeded on stubble need rain very badly. Pastures are poor in this area and the hay crop will be light unless rain and warm weather are received soon. Although the Peace River received good rains earlier in the spring, moisture supplies are now being depleted and the present lack of rain is beginning to cause concern.

The weather continues favourable in British Columbia and the growth of field crops during the past two weeks has been excellent. Prospects for the small fruit crops are good, but the set of apples is disappointing in some districts.

Dairy Production in May

A reverse situation has developed with respect to the production of creamery butter in Canada, the May output amounting to 32,025,000 pounds as compared with 34,070,000 in the corresponding month of last year, a reduction of six per cent. The cumulative output for the first five months of the current year amounted to approximately 89,408,000 pounds as compared with 90,065,000 in the same period of the preceding year. Cold, backward weather and poor pasture growth in some sections had an adverse effect on milk

production, as reflected in the figures of butter make. In the Prairie Provinces, a reduction in cow numbers was also an important factor in reducing the output of butter.

Cheddar cheese production made a substantial gain during May, moving from 20,320,000 pounds to over 22,120,000, an advance of approximately nine per cent; and for the January to May period the total output amounted to 39,424,000 pounds, or 9.2 per cent more than that produced in the same period of last year.

The quantity of ice cream manufactured in May was more than 11 per cent below that of May 1944, the total being 1,842,000 gallons. The cumulative output for the first five months of 1945 was 5,857,000 gallons, representing a reduction of approximately five per cent. The drop in production during the past two months may be attributed to reduced demand on the part of military establishments, where the ice cream quota system is not applicable.

Concentrated milk products, including both whole milk and milk by-products, advanced approximately eight per cent during May being 36,313,000 pounds as compared with 33,667,000 in the same month of the preceding year. On a cumulative basis the total amounted to 110,763,000 pounds in comparison with 100,149,000 in the January to May period of 1944. Evaporated milk, the most important whole milk product, showed a gain of 10 per cent over that of May 1944, and skim milk powder, the most important milk by-product advanced approximately 15 per cent.

Milk production in April moved up two per cent over that of the corresponding month of last year, and the quantity of milk used in manufacture advanced $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. While complete figures for May are not yet available it is believed that the total farm milk supply will fall slightly below that of the preceding year. However, with the improvement now being reported in the pasture situation, it is expected that the production of milk during the peak period of the early summer should show some advance over the corresponding period of 1944.

Storage Holdings on June 1

The stocks of creamery butter in Canada on June 1, as published this week by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, were high. The total in storage and in transit amounted to 19,560,924 pounds as compared with 12,595,525 on May 1, 17,530,031 on June 1, 1944, and 16,857,000 pounds, the June 1, 1940-44 average. Most of the holdings - 53.4 per cent - were in cold storage warehouses. The Dairy Products Board held 3,217,928 pounds.

The amount of factory cheese on hand and in transit on June 1 increased to 40,713,580 pounds from 34,667,544 a year ago, and from 25,697,787 pounds last month. Stocks of evaporated whole milk owned by manufacturers increased still further to 34,820,851 pounds from 22,580,086 pounds on May 1 this year. The current stocks are more than double last year's holdings of 14,736,213 pounds. Skim milk powder on hand also increased to 5,231,767 pounds from 3,810,242 pounds last month and from last year's June 1 total of 1,971,402 pounds.

The stocks of shell eggs are only half a million dozen lower than those of last year, the total standing at 17,213,208 dozen as compared with 17,739,398 dozen on June 1, 1944. There was the usual seasonal increase from May 1 when the holdings totalled 13,447,697 dozen. There was a decrease of nearly 12 million pounds of frozen eggs from the holdings of last year. On June 1 this year the total was 18,060,877 pounds as compared with 29,778,237 pounds last year and 11,654,499 pounds last month.

There was a seasonal reduction in the stocks of dressed poultry. There were on June 1 this year only 5,950,632 pounds in store, whereas a month ago there were 8,102,723 pounds. The quantity held a year ago was 11,769,453 pounds.

The aggregate of all wholesale meat in Canada on June 1 was 77,430,267 pounds. This was a decrease from last year when the holdings were 123,541,234 pounds. It was also a reduction from last month's stocks which totalled 92,186,531 pounds. Of the June 1, 1945 stocks, 56,142,357 pounds were pork, a decrease from last year and last month, when the holdings were 88,867,197 pounds and 64,181,445 pounds, respectively. Beef totalled 15,635,289 pounds as compared with 25,197,236 pounds a year ago and 21,665,744 pounds last month. Veal at 4,773,274 pounds compared with 5,666,377 last year and 4,383,267 last month. Mutton and lamb decreased from last year and last month, stocks amounting to 879,347 pounds on June 1, 1945, 3,810,424 pounds last year and 1,956,075 pounds last month. Lard holdings were 2,588,052 pounds as compared with 2,817,385 a month ago and 21,367,313 pounds last year.

Stocks of frozen fresh fish on June 1 totalled 19,175,946 pounds. Last year the total was higher, being 19,655,787 pounds, while last month the holdings were 14,510,811 pounds. Frozen smoked fish stocks were 1,034,194 pounds as compared with 1,861,515 pounds last year and 1,171,530 pounds a month ago.

Fruit, frozen and in preservatives, aggregated 17,259,172 pounds on June 1, while last year the total was 22,200,729 pounds and a month ago 21,194,823 pounds. The total of vegetables, frozen and in brine, was 1,586,810 pounds. A year ago the stocks were 742,357 pounds and last month the holdings were 3,048,110 pounds.

Freezings of Canadian Fish in May

The quantity of fresh fish frozen during May totalled 8,336,750 pounds as compared with 9,501,610 pounds in May last year, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The most important items were: 2,099,642 pounds of cod fillets; 2,423,845 pounds of halibut, the Pacific season for which opened on May 1; and 2,190,578 pounds of sea herrings.

The total freezings of smoked fish in May 1945 amounted to 799,673 pounds as compared with 1,368,079 a year ago and 1,029,186 during April 1945. Smoked fillets comprised the principal item with 776,979 pounds in May of this year, 1,254,390 in May 1944, and 956,786 in April 1945.

Man-Hours and Hourly Earnings

In the manufacturing industries as a whole, the 849,758 wage-earners for whom statistics of man-hours were available at April 1 worked a total of 37,003,142 hours in the week preceding April 1 as compared with an estimated figure of 39,377,000 hours worked in the same establishments in the week preceding March 1; mainly as a result of the loss of working time at the Easter holidays, the average hours per week were reduced from 45.8 at March 1 to 43.5 at the first of April. On the other hand, the average hourly earnings reported at April 1 were slightly higher, rising from 70.1 cents in the preceding period of observation to 70.4 cents at the date under review.

In the six months for which statistics of hourly earnings are available, the changes in the average hourly earnings in manufacturing as a whole have been relatively slight, a fact which may be associated to some extent with the Government's wartime control of wage-rates. In many of the industries, however, rather greater fluctuations have been indicated. These are explained, in most cases, by the employment of larger or smaller numbers of craftsmen at different rates of pay in the indicated pay periods, while the amount of overtime worked in the plant as a whole, or in different departments of the establishment, also affects the average earnings as well as the average hours worked.

The highest rates of earnings in the manufacturing division are found in the production of durable manufactured goods; in which women constituted only 16.7 per cent of the total personnel reported at April 1. In the non-durable manufactured goods division, where 39.7 per cent of the employees at the date under review were women, the average, at 60.9 cents per hour, was lower by over 17 cents than that in the durable manufactured goods; obviously, a factor of paramount importance in the variations in the hourly rates in the different industries is the degree of skill generally required of workers engaged therein. The age distribution of persons employed in the industry, and the amount of overtime or of broken time worked, are also important contributors to the fluctuations.

In the durable manufactured goods division, the lowest average earnings are found in the lumber industry, and in clay, glass and stone products, while the highest figures are in the iron and steel industries; at April 1, the maximum earnings reported were those of 86.4 cents in shipbuilding and repairing and 93.8 cents per hour in automobile and parts manufacturing. The proportions of women workers in these industries are generally low, ranging from six per cent in shipbuilding to 22 per cent in clay, glass and stone products.

In the light manufactured goods industries, the range in the hourly earnings is fairly wide. The lowest averages in the group are found in textiles, in which 60 per cent of the total persons in recorded employment at April 1 were women; the general figure in this group at the latest date was 51 cents per hour. The beverage industries, where little more than 20 per cent of the workers were women, had an average of 65.7 cents per hour. The highest figure in the non-durable manufactured industries was that of 85.9 cents reported in the petroleum products division, in which only 9.2 per cent of the total employees reported at the beginning of April were women.

Car Loadings on Canadian Railways

Car loadings on Canadian railways for the week ended June 2 increased to 74,296 cars from 70,242 for the preceding week and 70,579 for the corresponding week of last year. In the eastern division, loadings increased from 44,595 cars in 1944 to 46,645, and in the western division from 25,984 cars to 27,651.

Total loadings of grain increased from 10,595 cars in 1944 to 13,730, while live stock declined from 2,429 cars to 1,812, coal from 5,210 to 4,605, and ores, concentrates and other mine products from 3,825 cars to 3,341. Pulp wood loadings increased from 2,501 cars to 3,286, lumber from 3,400 cars to 3,628, automobiles and trucks from 1,128 cars to 1,478 and wood pulp and paper from 2,946 cars to 3,209.

Production of Gold in March

The production of gold in Canada in March amounted to 228,687 fine ounces as compared with 212,351 in the preceding month and 266,644 in the corresponding month of last year. The value of the March 1945 output was \$8,804,450. During the first quarter of the present year 674,248 fine ounces of gold were produced as compared with 781,240 in the comparable period of 1944.

Gold output was as follows by provinces in March, totals for the corresponding month of last year being in brackets: Ontario, 135,768 (155,492) fine ounces; Quebec, 61,006 (72,303); British Columbia, 17,177 (17,223); Manitoba and Saskatchewan, 14,475 (19,019); Nova Scotia, 84 (527); Yukon, 177 (nil); Northwest Territories, nil (2,080) fine ounces.

March Production of Silver, Lead and Zinc

The Canadian output of silver in March amounted to 1,199,546 ounces as compared with 952,225 in the preceding month and 1,367,155 in the corresponding month of last year. Quotations for silver on the New York market in March averaged 49.23 cents per fine ounce in Canadian funds. Based on this price, the value of the March production totalled \$590,536. During the first three months of this year silver production totalled 3,171,361 ounces as compared with 3,845,609 in the comparable period of 1944.

Primary unrefined lead production in all forms during March rose to 35,169,939 pounds from the preceding month's output of 24,578,012 pounds, and increased 44.9 per cent over the March 1944 total of 24,264,103 pounds. During the first three months of 1945 production of lead was recorded at 85,371,694 pounds as compared with 86,728,931 in the first quarter of 1944.

Production of primary zinc in all forms in March totalled 47,697,136 pounds as compared with 44,520,588 in February and 46,049,214 in March of last year. Output during the first quarter of 1945 amounted to 141,723,901 pounds as compared with 138,294,593 in the corresponding period of last year.

Production of Copper and Nickel in March

Copper production in Canada in March was recorded at 45,931,335 pounds as compared with 39,903,080 in the preceding month and 43,472,036 in the corresponding month of last year. During the first three months of the current year the production aggregated 130,215,843 pounds as compared with 143,713,750 in the similar period of 1944.

March nickel production amounted to 23,514,627 pounds as compared with 20,724,884 in February and 25,288,828 in March of last year. During the first quarter of this year 68,009,779 pounds of nickel were produced as compared with 71,216,367 in the like period of the preceding years.

Production of Crude Petroleum in February

Production of crude petroleum and natural gasoline in Canada in February totalled 778,828 barrels as compared with 881,821 in January and 793,869 in February of last year. Output in Alberta was recorded at 650,432 barrels, New Brunswick 1,694, Ontario 6,645, and the Northwest Territories 120,057 barrels. During the first two months of this year the all-Canada output totalled 1,660,649 barrels as compared with 1,631,301 in the same period of 1944.

Stocks and Marketings of Wheat and Coarse Grains

Stocks of Canadian wheat in store or in transit in North America at midnight on June 7 totalled 273,846,544 bushels as compared with 275,956,126 on the corresponding date of last year. On the latest date the stocks included 254,266,423 bushels in Canadian positions and 19,580,121 bushels in United States positions.

Deliveries of wheat from farms in the Prairie Provinces during the week ending June 7 amounted to 4,061,864 bushels as compared with 3,966,183 in the preceding week. During the elapsed portion of the present crop year, 307,332,301 bushels were marketed in western Canada as compared with 242,424,210 in the corresponding period of 1943-44.

The following quantities of coarse grains were also delivered from farms in the Prairie Provinces, totals for the preceding week being in brackets: oats, 2,574,108 (2,634,300) bushels; barley, 494,645 (435,134); rye, 33,723 (33,491); flaxseed, 32,278 (18,695).

Stocks of Unmanufactured Tobacco

Stocks of unmanufactured tobacco on hand in Canada at the end of March aggregated 117,012,588 pounds as compared with 129,869,556 on the corresponding date of last year. The stocks of Canadian tobacco amounted to 115,106,612 pounds as compared with 127,945,880 a year ago, while the imported types totalled 1,905,976 pounds as compared with 1,923,676.

Central Electric Stations in 1943

Electric energy generated by central electric stations in Canada during 1943 totalled 40,479,593,000 kilowatt hours as compared with 37,355,179,000 in the preceding year and 28,338,030,000 in 1939. Of the recorded output in 1943, 39,660,312,000 kilowatt hours, or almost 98 per cent was produced by water power, whereas only 758,128,000 kilowatt hours were produced by plants using only thermal engines and 61,153,000 kilowatt hours were produced by thermal auxiliary equipment in hydraulic plants and in non-generating plants.

The pulp and paper industry was the largest consumer of electric energy prior to the war, but because of restrictions on the use of electricity in boilers the total consumption by this industry declined, amounting in 1943 to 6,110,841,000 kilowatt hours. With the great development of the aluminum industry, the metal smelting and refineries became the largest consumers of electric energy, the consumption in 1943 totalling 11,009,839,000 kilowatt hours. Domestic service accounted for a consumption figure of 2,843,612,000 kilowatt hours, commercial lighting 1,260,809,000, exports to the United States 2,545,038,000 and line losses 3,451,364,000.

The number of domestic customers served by central electric stations continues to advance, reaching a total of 1,852,367 in 1943, as compared with 1,803,708 in 1942, 1,623,672 in 1939 and 1,379,153 in 1934. The average annual bill for domestic service in 1943 was \$27.70 as compared with \$28.11 in 1942, \$26.97 in 1939 and \$26.47 in 1934. These bills do not include federal, provincial and municipal sales taxes paid by the consumers.

Sales of Gasoline in January

Sales of motor, tractor and aviation grades of gasoline in Canada in January totalled 53,469,000 gallons as compared with 58,735,000 in the preceding month and 57,215,000 in January 1944, according to returns received by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics from the tax departments of provincial governments and from Canadian oil companies.

Sales of Clay Products in March

Sales by producers of clay products made from domestic clays in Canada in March were recorded at \$547,681 as compared with \$398,724 in February and \$380,078 in March of last year. Sales in March this year included building brick to the value of \$259,460, structural tile \$69,682, drain tile \$20,256, sewer pipe \$64,317, fireclay blocks and shapes \$20,860, pottery \$74,151, and miscellaneous clay products \$38,956.

Reports Issued During the Week

1. Canadian Grain Statistics (10 cents).
 2. Car Loadings on Canadian Railways (10 cents).
 3. Monthly Review of Dairy Production, May (10 cents).
 4. Stocks of Fruit and Vegetables, June 1 (10 cents).
 5. Stocks of Dairy and Poultry Products, June 1 (10 cents).
 6. Cold Storage Holdings of Fish, June 1 (10 cents).
 7. Cold Storage Holdings of Meat and Lard, June 1 (10 cents).
 8. Telegraphic Crop Report, Canada (10 cents).
 9. Petroleum and Natural Gas Production, February; and Petroleum Fuels Sales,
January (10 cents).
 10. Clay Products Made from Canadian Clays, March (10 cents).
 11. Production of Canada's Leading Minerals, March (10 cents).
 12. Copper and Nickel Production, March (10 cents).
 13. Silver, Lead and Zinc Production, March (10 cents).
 14. Gold Production, March (10 cents).
 15. Man-Hours and Hourly Earnings, April 1, 1945 (10 cents).
 16. Stocks and Consumption of Unmanufactured Tobacco, March 31, 1945 (10 cents).
 17. Central Electric Stations in Canada, 1943 (25 cents).
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