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Crop Conditions in Canada

Good growing weather during the past two weeks has greatly improved crop prospects in Quebec. All grain is now in the ground and growth is vigorous, particularly on the well drained soils. Meadows and pastures are good and milk production is at a high level. Cutting of alfalfa has started in some areas. The vegetable crop, although late, is now giving promise of satisfactory yields. Conditions in Ontario are variable but on the whole prospects are much improved over earlier indications. Fall wheat has recovered to a remarkable extent and much of the crop is now heavy and headed out. Late-sown grains are making rapid growth with the warmer weather. The hay crop is being cut in many districts with an average yield in prospect. Pastures are good and the milk flow is high in the main dairy areas. The corn crop, while late, is now coming up well.

Manitoba has received scattered rains during the week and higher temperatures have promoted rapid growth. Rain would again be welcome at most points especially around Winnipeg and the north-western section of the province. The crop is from fifteen to eighteen days behind schedule. Pastures are generally good and corn and rapeseed are making excellent progress. Early sown grain in the southwest has reached the shot blade stage and is now about 15 inches high. The cool spring encouraged the growth of weeds and these are now a serious factor in those fields which were not properly cultivated. Wireworm damage is more extensive than has been the case for several years varying from 10 to 50 per cent.

For the province of Saskatchewan as a whole rainfall is about an inch and a quarter below the normal although some areas have fared much better than others. North and east of a line between Estevan, Saskatoon, Lloydminster, moisture conditions are favourable and crops are making good headway south and west of this line. Conditions are less favourable with the south-central areas urgently requiring rain. The southwest corner has received scattered showers and top soil moisture supplies are greatly improved. The temperatures during the week have been higher and this factor has greatly improved crop prospects. Wheat has stood out well and now averages about six inches in height. About 90 per cent of the coarse grains is now showing green with an average height of approximately five inches. Wireworm damage is reported in some points, especially in the drier areas and unless rain is received soon in the west-central area crops may be very poor.

Widely scattered showers have occurred in Alberta during the past week although the central area around Edmonton still urgently requires rains. Crops and pasture conditions are excellent along the foothills south of Calgary but moisture is needed in the south-east to replenish depleted subsoil moisture supplies. Taking the province as a whole the height of the wheat plant varies from three to 12 inches with coarse grains ranging from two to eight inches. Winter wheat is making good progress and the sugar beet crop although late is quite promising. Crops are growing rapidly through the Peace River area and although moisture supplies so far have been adequate some areas are beginning to complain of drought.

Although generally cool throughout the Province there has been warm weather in some parts of British Columbia. Fall grains are in head and spring grains are fair to good. Prospects are that a heavy hay crop will be harvested. Vegetable crops are good, but in some places warm weather is needed for tomatoes, cucumbers and such warm weather plants. Small fruits are doing well and strawberry picking is almost over.

Continued rain has retarded farm operations in Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia. Prospects in New Brunswick are improved. Seeding is almost finished and germination of early sown grain is good. The Nova Scotia apple crop is the lowest in many years.

Births, Deaths and Marriages during
the First Nine Months of 1944

The number of live births registered in Canada during the first nine months of 1944 was 214,571 as compared with 218,211 in the corresponding period of 1943, the rate per thousand of the population declining to 23.9 from 24.7. Deaths during the first nine months of 1944 totalled 85,718 with a rate of 9.5 per thousand population as compared with 87,406 and a rate of 9.9. The natural increase in the population for the nine

months of 1944 was 128,853 as compared with 130,805. There were 75,730 marriages as compared with 84,628 in the first nine months of 1943.

The number of deaths assigned to certain causes during the first nine months of 1944 was as follows, with totals for the corresponding period of 1943 in parentheses: typhoid and paratyphoid fever, 106 (93); scarlet fever, 83 (70); whooping cough, 209 (317); diphtheria, 168 (194); tuberculosis, 4,312 (4,702); influenza, 1,578 (1,355); smallpox - (-); measles, 179 (143); acute poliomyelitis and polioencephalitis, 26 (21); cancer, 10,500 (10,536); intracranial lesions of vascular origin, 6,656 (6,856); diseases of the heart, 21,216 (21,220); diseases of the arteries, 1,748 (1,848); pneumonia, 4,450 (4,554); diarrhoea and enteritis, 1,974 (1,454); nephritis, 5,265 (5,443); suicides, 542 (579); homicides, 79 (89); motor accidents, 993 (970); other accidental deaths, 4,118 (4,574).

Stocks and Marketings of Wheat and Coarse Grains

Stocks of Canadian wheat in store or in transit in North America at midnight on June 21 totalled 261,027,160 bushels as compared with 281,261,903 on the corresponding date of last year, a decrease of 20,234,743 bushels. The visible supply on the latest date included 242,880,466 bushels in Canadian positions, and 18,146,694 bushels in United States positions.

Marketings of wheat from farms in the Prairie Provinces during the week ended June 21 amounted to 4,593,324 bushels as compared with 4,902,141 in the preceding week. From the commencement of the crop year on August 1, 1944 to June 21, 1945, deliveries of wheat from prairie farms totalled 316,840,792 bushels as compared with 263,300,808 in the similar period of the crop year 1943-44.

The following quantities of coarse grains were also delivered from farms in western Canada during the week ended June 21, totals for the preceding week being in parentheses: oats, 3,017,212 (3,350,222) bushels; barley, 639,051 (609,442); rye, 20,709 (32,539); flaxseed, 46,089 (29,236).

Car Loadings on Canadian Railways

Car loadings on Canadian railways for the week ended June 16 declined to 74,302 cars from 75,846 cars for the preceding week, but were 2,303 cars above loadings of 71,999 for the corresponding week of last year. Loadings in the eastern division increased from 46,142 cars in 1944 to 47,006, and in the western division from 28,857 cars to 27,296 cars.

Loadings of railway revenue freight during May totalled 310,000 cars as compared with 292,000 in April and 318,000 in May, 1944. The index of cars loaded, on the base 1935-1939=100 stood at 153.5 as compared with 148.7 for April and 157.4 for May last year.

Loadings of Railway Revenue Freight in March

Revenue freight loaded at Canadian stations and received from foreign connections during March amounted to 12,875,725 tons as compared with 13,525,007 in the corresponding month of last year. Loadings were lighter than in 1944 by 392,009 tons or 4.4 per cent, imports declined by 192,464 tons or 10 per cent, and freight between foreign points declined by 64,749 tons or 2.4 per cent.

Coal and Coke Supplies of Canada in April

Coal production in Canada during April amounted to 1,316,129 tons as compared with 1,236,200 in the corresponding month of last year. During the first four months of the present year the total was 5,977,089 tons as compared with 5,863,268 in the similar period of the preceding year.

Output of coke from ovens and gas retorts during April was recorded at 325,617 tons compared with 341,793 in March and 337,937 in April, 1944. Production for April this year was made up of 89,488 tons from the eastern provinces, 866,310 tons from Ontario, and 96,788 tons from western Canada. During the four months ended April, the all-Canada output amounted to 1,322,485 tons as compared with 1,370,545 in the like period of 1944.

Imports of coal into Canada during April amounted to 1,315,837 tons, making a total of 3,831,504 tons for the year to date compared with 1,700,695 tons imported during April

1944, and 5,394,518 tons for the first four months of 1944. Coal exported during April amounted to 80,026 tons compared with 56,582 tons in April 1944, and in the four months ended April, 306,933 tons as compared with 308,524 tons.

Production of Gold in April

The production of gold in Canada in April was recorded at 223,737 fine ounces as compared with 228,687 in the preceding month and 244,804 in the corresponding month of last year. The value of this year's April output was \$8,613,875. Production during the first four months of the current year aggregated 897,985 fine ounces as compared with 1,026,044 in the comparable period of last year.

Gold output was as follows in April, by provinces, totals for the corresponding month of last year being in parentheses: Ontario, 130,371 (143,008) fine ounces; Quebec, 63,298 (64,546); British Columbia, 15,648 (16,321); Manitoba and Saskatchewan, 14,280 (18,293); Nova Scotia, 85 (408); Yukon, 55 (128); Northwest Territories, nil (2,100).

Production of Silver, Lead and Zinc in April

The production of silver in April amounted to 1,253,887 ounces as compared with 1,199,546 in the preceding month and 1,229,798 in the corresponding month of last year. During the first four months of this year the output of silver was recorded at 4,425,238 ounces as compared with 5,075,407 in the same period of 1944.

Primary unrefined lead production in April decreased to 28,172,344 pounds from the preceding month's output of 35,169,939 pounds, but rose 11.5 per cent from the April 1944 total of 25,270,297 pounds. Production during the first four months of the present year amounted to 113,544,038 pounds as compared with 111,999,228 in the comparable period of 1944.

Production of primary zinc in April totalled 43,385,577 pounds as compared with 47,697,136 in March and 43,359,215 in April 1944. For the first four months of this year production amounted to 185,109,478 pounds as compared with 181,653,808 pounds in the corresponding period of 1944.

Cheques Cashed Against Individual Accounts in May

The aggregate of cheques cashed against individual accounts during May was greater than in any other month in history, the total rising to \$6,894,000,000 from \$6,653,000,000 in the corresponding month of last year. The previous maximum was in November 1944 when the total was \$6,671,000,000. The high point achieved in May reflected the influence of heavy payments on the 8th Victory Loan.

Cheques cashed in the first five months of 1945 were greater than in the same period of any other year. The total was \$26,600,000,000 against \$24,700,000,000 in the first five months of 1944. Consecutive increases were shown from 1938 to the present time, reflecting the advance in economic activity generated by war conditions. From an historical viewpoint the maximum of the last major economic cycle was reached in 1929 when the total was \$19,300,000,000. This total was unsurpassed until 1943 when the total reached \$21,100,000,000.

Heavier financial transactions were definitely indicated for each of the five economic areas in May over the same month of last year. The greatest percentage increase was shown in the Maritime Provinces where debits rose from \$144,288,000 to \$165,165,000. The total for Quebec rose from \$1,906,000,000 to \$1,941,000,000, or by 1.9 per cent, while that for Ontario advanced from \$3,056,000,000 to \$3,183,000,000, or by 4.1 per cent. Cheques cashed in the Prairie Provinces rose from \$1,141,000,000 to \$1,162,000,000, the increase being nearly two per cent. Increases were general in the three clearing centres of British Columbia, the net result being an advance of 9.3 per cent in the provincial total from \$405,623,000 to \$443,243,000.

Building Permits in May

The value of building permits issued by municipalities reporting to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics was \$17,348,058 in May as compared with \$17,735,330 in the preceding month and \$17,838,508 in the corresponding month of last year. New construction of all types accounted for 82.3 per cent of the total value of permits issued in May this year,

while the percentage of new residential construction was 69.9. During the first five months of this year the value of permits issued was \$60,481,369 as compared with \$48,839,758 in the like period of 1944.

Department Store Sales in May

Department store sales in May decreased two per cent as compared with the corresponding month of last year and declined one per cent below sales in April, 1945. During the first five months of the present year, sales advanced eight per cent over the same period of 1944. Unadjusted indexes of sales, on the base 1935-39=100 stood at 162.9 for May, 164.8 for April and 166.2 for May, 1944.

World Wheat Situation

Despite the lateness of the season the prospects for the spring wheat crop are generally good in both Canada and the United States, while the winter wheat crop in the latter country is in excellent condition. Since harvesting operations are now in full swing in the American South-West, the period within which unfavourable weather conditions can adversely affect the important winter wheat crop is rapidly drawing to a close. The spring wheat crop is making good progress in Western Canada despite dry conditions in central Saskatchewan and Alberta. The combination of this favourable crop outlook and a prospective carry-over in the two countries of from 635-675 million bushels of old wheat at the end of the crop year gives little cause for concern over supplies in 1945-46.

Recent rains have been received in many parts of the Prairie Provinces and although warm weather is needed everywhere as well as more moisture, the crop is generally showing promise. Spotty germination and a heavy growth of weeds were caused by prolonged cool weather. Although the retarded development of the wheat plant is causing concern over possible frost damage in the fall, the date of maturity will depend to a large extent on weather conditions during the summer. Prairie farmers have marketed about 317 million bushels of wheat since the first of August 1944, and the railways have managed to move an even larger volume out of the country elevators during this same period. Delivery quotas have now been suspended until the end of the present crop year, giving farmers a chance to market their old wheat prior to the imposition of the new 14-bushel maximum.

The total wheat crop in the United States is expected to be near 1,085 million bushels and the largest crop ever produced in that country. Over 797 million bushels will be winter wheat and the combines are already moving through it. Although the harvesting of spring wheat will not get under way for another month and a half, above-average yields are anticipated. The first appraisal of the condition of this crop placed the probable output at 287 million bushels which, while not as large as the harvests of 1943 and 1944, is still nearly 100 million bushels above average.

Canada and the United States, as the two major wheat exporting countries nearest Europe and with a surplus of wheat, are now moving this bread grain overseas as rapidly as transportation and port capacity will permit. With only six weeks of the crop year remaining, Canada has exported nearly 288 million bushels of wheat and wheat flour. Since the Canadian wheat surplus available for export or carry-over during the current crop year was about 330 million bushels, it now appears that year-end stocks will be between 285 and 300 million bushels. A carry-over of this size would be moderately below the 356 million bushels of old wheat on hand at July 31 a year ago and the lowest since 1939.

The reduced carry-over in Canada may be largely offset by increased stocks in the United States which are expected to range from 350-375 million bushels, as compared with 316 million bushels at July 1, 1944. In view of the favourable prospects of the United States harvesting another billion bushel wheat crop in 1945, it is now expected that the carry-over of old wheat at July 1, 1946 will again exhibit a moderate increase, despite large-scale exports and continued heavy domestic use. The carry-over of old wheat in Canada in mid-summer of 1946, on the other hand, is likely to be still further reduced in the light of smaller plantings this spring and the present heavy export program which is scheduled to extend into the new crop year.

The seeding of the new wheat crop in Argentina is now nearing completion and there are indications that this year's acreage will exceed the 15.4 million acres which were seeded a year ago. Weather conditions have been only moderately favourable with seeding held up in some areas by lack of rain and continued cool weather.

It is not possible to make an appraisal of the exportable surplus of wheat being held in Argentina as no official estimate of stocks has been issued recently. If known

exports and domestic requirements are deducted from total supplies, however, it appears that Argentina now holds about 170 million bushels of wheat over and above domestic requirements. Exports of wheat and wheat flour have been averaging about $8\frac{1}{2}$ million bushels a month since December 1, the beginning of the Argentine crop year. During recent weeks export offerings have been light, apparently because of the difficulty experienced in accumulating sufficient wheat at the ports to meet export demands. The current shortage of coal and fuel oils is said to have lowered the capacity of the railways to the point where Argentina will not be able to maintain her present rate of overseas wheat shipments.

Although heavy rains have been received over large areas in Australia, moisture reserves in the soil are very low as a result of the prolonged drought. It is now hoped that about 11.7 million acres may be seeded to wheat which will bring the acreage almost back to the pre-war average. The realization of normal yields on an acreage of this size would result in a crop of about 140 million bushels. However, shortages of phosphate fertilizer may lower yields somewhat. A harvest of 140 million bushels would permit restoration of a reserve carry-over and the resumption of exports on a limited scale.

Automobile Parts and Accessories

The heavy wartime demands for parts and accessories for the production and servicing of military combat vehicles, military transport units, and the requirements of essential civilian services are reflected in figures published by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The production value of automobile parts and accessories recorded a four-fold advance to \$286,923,000 in 1943 from the 1939 total of \$78,035,000. Among the products made were automobile engines, bodies, differentials, transmissions, radiators, spark plugs, self-starters, axles, piston rings, wheels, laminated glass, springs, tires, batteries, etc.

Production of Leading Minerals

The production of coal in Canada during the first four months of the current year advanced to 5,977,089 tons from last year's corresponding output of 5,863,268 tons. Crude petroleum production declined to 3,133,072 barrels from 3,352,927, while natural gas output fell to 19,805,485,000 cubic feet from 20,306,725,000. Asbestos production rose to 161,344 tons from 134,530, cement to 1,363,956 barrels from 1,044,824, and lead to 113,544,038 pounds from 111,999,228.

The production of other leading minerals during the first four months of 1945 was as follows, totals for the corresponding period of 1944 being in parentheses: clay products, \$1,927,254 (\$1,462,526); copper, 173,169,959 (188,953,532) pounds; feldspar, 7,175 (8,242) tons; gold, 897,985 (1,026,044) fine ounces; gypsum, 67,106 (176,868) tons; lime, 273,105 (298,704) tons; nickel, 89,671,151 (94,376,917) pounds; commercial salt, 95,480 (102,911) tons; silver, 4,425,238 (5,075,407) fine ounces; and zinc, 185,109,478 (181,653,808) pounds.

Stocks of United States Corn in Canada

Stocks of United States corn in Canada on June 21 totalled 353,386 bushels as compared with 722,578 on the corresponding date of last year. Stocks on the latest date were located at the following points: Sarnia, 281,795 bushels; Midland, 54,758; Port Colborne, 15,941; Montreal, 892.

Fisheries of Prince Edward Island in 1944

In 1944 the fisheries of Prince Edward Island recorded a decrease of nine per cent in the total value of marketed products as compared with 1943, the value being \$2,598,975 as against \$2,860,946. The reduction was caused by smaller catches of haddock, hake and cod, much of which is canned together under the name of "chicken haddies". Lobsters, the most important single fishery in the Province, accounted for 51 per cent of the total marketed value.

The total quantity of fish of all kinds landed by Prince Edward Island fishermen was 272,227 cwt. and the value at the point of landing was \$1,797,308, compared with a catch of 332,405 cwt. and a landed value of \$1,869,266 in 1943. Average prices paid to the fishermen for the principal kinds of fish in 1944 were as follows per cwt., with comparative figures for 1943 in parentheses: lobster, \$16.95 (16.74); hake, \$2.47 (\$3.81);

cod, \$3.65 (\$4.02); mackerel, \$4.25 (\$4.40); herring, \$1.26 (\$1.20); smelts, \$8.00 (\$6.84); and oysters, \$8.55 (\$8.03) per barrel.

Shipbuilding Industry of Canada

The wartime expansion in the shipbuilding industry of Canada is reflected in figures compiled by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. In 1943 there were 87 shipyards included in the industry, employing an average of 75,847 workers who were paid a total of \$153,595,336 in salaries and wages. In 1939 there were only 43 shipyards with 3,491 employees who received \$4,950,179 in salaries and wages. The gross selling value of products at the works advanced from \$11,234,967 in 1939 to \$376,580,974 in 1943. The 23 establishments on the west coast with production valued at \$155,636,546 accounted for 42 per cent of the total for Canada in 1943, and the 12 yards in Quebec with an output valued at \$130,208,952 accounted for 35 per cent.

Facts of Interest from Bureau Records

Felt is a material made from wool, hair, fur, or mixtures, the invention of which is sometimes ascribed to the Oriental shopherds. Felting is probably older than weaving, the cloth having been used for tents, clothing and other purposes from remotest times. Wool has the best qualities for felting because of the many barbs on each fibre. Fur or hair from the ox, goat, hare, rabbit and beaver are readily felted. Large quantities of felt are manufactured in Canada every year, and the largest consumer is the paper-making industry. Felt produced in Canada in 1943 was valued at \$5,591,000, of which that intended for use in the process of paper-making amounted to \$2,730,000.

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Canada's natural resources in salt are abundant and the production of the mineral is one of the Dominion's oldest non-metallic industries. Early in the 19th century the Hudson's Bay Company obtained its local supplies from the brine springs of the Mackenzie Basin. However, the real birth of the industry occurred with the discovery of salt in Ontario in 1866. Salt is produced from wells in Ontario, Manitoba and Saskatchewan, while in Nova Scotia the mineral is mined as rock salt. The production of salt in Canada in 1944 amounted to 717,000 tons valued at \$3,921,000.

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Cotton is called the universal fibre because of its many uses in industry and households. It is a vegetable product obtained from the pod of the cotton plant. It has been known from remote times, as is shown by the writings of early historians. Columbus found cotton growing in the West Indies and the natives making cotton cloth. Cortez, on invading Montezuma's kingdom in Mexico, found the natives weaving beautiful and richly coloured cotton fabrics. Canada has a highly developed cotton textile industry, including both spinners and weavers, and a very wide range of fabrics and goods are produced. In 1943 the industry gave employment to 27,000 persons and had a gross value of production amounting to \$150,000,000.

Reports Issued during the Week

1. Building Permits, May (10 cents).
2. Silver, Lead and Zinc Production, April (10 cents).
3. Coal and Coke Statistics, April (10 cents).
4. Occupational Differences in Fertility, Canada, 1941 (50 cents).
5. Telegraphic Crop Report, Canada (10 cents).
6. Births, Deaths and Marriages in Third Quarter of 1944 (25 cents).
7. Department Store Sales, May (10 cents).
8. Gold Production, April (10 cents).
9. Iron Castings Industry, 1943 (25 cents).
10. Railway Revenue Freight Loadings, May (10 cents).
11. Car Loadings on Canadian Railways (10 cents).
12. Civil Aviation, February (10 cents).
13. Cheques Cashed against Individual Accounts, May (10 cents).
14. The Shipbuilding Industry, 1943 (15 cents).
15. Electrical Apparatus and Supplies Industry, 1943 (50 cents).
16. Cooking and Heating Apparatus Industry, 1943 (25 cents).
17. Traffic Report of Railways, March (10 cents).
18. Fisheries of Prince Edward Island, 1944 (10 cents).
19. Monthly Review of the Wheat Situation (10 cents).
20. Canadian Grain Statistics (10 cents).
21. Production of Canada's Leading Minerals, April (10 cents).
22. Automobile Parts Industry, 1943 (25 cents).



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