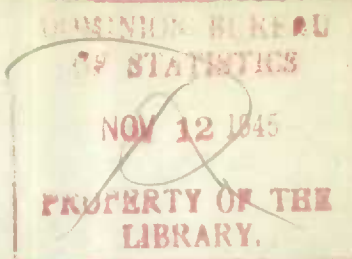


WEEKLY BULLETIN

Dominion Bureau of Statistics  
Department of Trade and Commerce



Vol. XIII - No. 44      Ottawa, Saturday, November 10, 1945      Price \$1.00 per annum

Dominion-Provincial Conference on  
Provincial Financial Statistics

The Hon. James A. MacKinnon welcomed provincial delegates who attended the three-day Dominion-Provincial Conference on Provincial Financial Statistics which opened on Monday morning, November 5. This conference was called mainly to consider the work of a Continuing Committee which was appointed to further study and make recommendations concerning matters brought before the second conference held in the Fall of 1943. Mr. MacKinnon addressed the conference as follows:

"I am very glad to have this opportunity to welcome you to this conference and to express the hope that your discussions will be crowned with every success. We deeply appreciate the co-operation of all the provincial Ministers and governments who have made it possible for you to be in Ottawa at the present time. We are glad to have with us also the representatives of the Department of Finance and the Bank of Canada to help us in this Conference.

"In October, 1943, I had the pleasure of welcoming delegates to a similar conference. After much useful work, that conference appointed a continuing committee to explore the various matters under discussion in greater detail. Among its special tasks was the duty of investigating the best methods to obtain greater uniformity in reporting provincial financial affairs.

"I am informed that since the last Conference, the Continuing Committee has held five meetings. Officials of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics have also been devoting much study to this subject. This Conference will examine the report of the Continuing Committee, and I trust that your discussions will make it possible to achieve a great measure of uniform practice.

"From time to time one hears it said that our system of compiling figures on our public finances could in some respects be improved. The co-operation of the provincial governments and the Dominion, based upon a system of standard practice, is essential if we are to compile reliable figures of our national debt and other branches of statistical information dealing with public finance.

"Never before has there been such urgent need of statistics of the highest quality. Business and governments alike must have reliable and up-to-date statistics in order to deal effectively with the many problems which press upon us to-day for consideration and action.

"When it is realized that so much of our national income is being collected and spent by public authorities at different levels of government, it is plainly evident that the demand for public finance statistics of the utmost reliability is certain to grow in volume and scope in coming years. This Conference provides definite proof of our recognition of this necessity and of our determination to be well-prepared to meet it.

"I can assure you that your suggestions and recommendations are being awaited eagerly and will be accorded every possible consideration. May I again wish you success and express the hope that this conference will be looked back upon as a landmark in the field of statistical research and co-operation," concluded Mr. MacKinnon.

The conference then appointed Herbert Marshall, Dominion Statistician, its chairman, and as vice-chairman H. E. Potter, Deputy Provincial Treasurer of Nova Scotia. The chairman expressed his gratitude for the honor which had been conferred upon him in electing him. J. H. Lowther, Chief of the Public Finance Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics was elected secretary of the Conference.

"This is the third Dominion-Provincial Conference on the statistics of Provincial Government Finance," said Mr. Marshall. "I think in some respects it is the most important of the three. You are now attempting to bring to fruition the work done by previous conferences and by the Continuing Committee. I should like to reiterate the note sounded by Mr. MacKinnon in his address of welcome. There never was a time when statistics of the highest quality were needed so much as now. The Bureau has been asked in recent months by many Departments and agencies of the Government, and has received many requests outside the Government, to develop new series of statistics,



to round out existing series, to furnish more breakdowns, analyses and interpretations, and to reorganize important key statistics so that they will meet current needs more adequately. These requests are born of an urgent need for data of high quality as a guide to recommendations concerning policy.

"To meet this new and urgent need the Bureau has been endeavouring to stream-line its organization," continued Mr. Marshall. "We have created a Central Research and Development Staff of well trained economists, one of whose functions is to maintain constant liaison with the consumers of our statistics so that we may know their needs, particularly in the field of economic statistics and to assist us in organizing our work to meet those needs. The first task of this Central Staff has been the reorganization of National Income Statistics which occupy a key position among statistical series in a time committed to social security measure, high employment, subsidies and so on. A close co-operative effort between members of the Central Staff, experts in the Bank of Canada, the Department of Finance, the Department of Reconstruction and others has led to great progress in the last year.

"We have also set up a Scientific Sampling Organization in the Bureau which will provide a medium for obtaining information on a sampling basis quickly and economically. Its first task will be a quarterly sample survey of the labour force which will furnish an overall picture of unemployment. The first survey takes place next month. Other important measures to speed up and improve our output in certain fields I shall not take time to mention.

"I have spoken of these things only for the purpose of emphasizing the fact that there is a great urgency about improving the quality of our statistics. That pertains to financial statistics also. We have been asking our Public Finance Statistics Branch under Mr. Lowther for more and more public finance statistics for our National Income studies, but you know that is merely one of their uses. I have become deeply conscious of the need for statistics of the highest quality to help Governments at all levels, business and the people of this Dominion to solve wisely the many problems we have to face in this period of reconstruction. I am sure it is the earnest hope of all of us that the deliberations of this Conference will mark a long step forward in the improvement of our statistics of provincial government finance," Mr. Marshall concluded.

During the course of the conference, consideration was given to the question of standardized classifications, terms and definitions in relation to Provincial Government operations with the object of achieving greater clarification and uniformity in form, content and presentation of provincial financial statistics.

The conference unanimously subscribed to the view expressed by the Continuing Committee, that through the co-operation of provincial authorities, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics should be able to supply annually up-to-date information sufficient to meet the requirements of governments as well as those of the public in general.

The matter of uniform fiscal year ends for all provincial governments was referred to the Secretary of the Co-ordinating Committee of the Dominion-Provincial Conference on Reconstruction.

In order that further thought and study may be given to matters pertinent to public finance statistics generally, the conference appointed a Continuing Committee composed of the following members: H. J. Chater, Ontario; W. C. Lower, Quebec; G. D. Iliffe, Manitoba; J. E. Howes, Bank of Canada; J. H. Lowther, Dominion Bureau of Statistics; and a representative of the Dominion Department of Finance.

The value of these conferences was again demonstrated in the clarification of mutual problems and inter-governmental relationships pertaining to provincial financial statistics. The desire to continue and advance these and other co-operative efforts in the field of provincial financial statistics between the Dominion and Provincial Governments to the greatest possible extent led to the passing of a recommendation that similar conferences be held regularly in future.

The following provincial representatives attended the conference: Prince Edward Island, H. R. Carruthers and W. E. Massey; Nova Scotia, H. E. Potter and L. E. Feverill; New Brunswick, T. J. O'Brien and R. S. FitzRandolph; Quebec, Roger Stanton; Ontario, H. J. Chater; Manitoba, G. D. Iliffe and F. B. Brisbin; Saskatchewan, J. E. Rowsom and A. Baker; Alberta, C. K. Huckvale and D. Barr; and British Columbia, J. A. Craig.

Representatives of the Dominion Government included: Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Herbert Marshall, Dominion Statistician, J. H. Lowther, and A. S. Abell; Department of Finance, A. K. Eaton, W. E. Hunter, and G. E. Lowe; Bank of Canada, D. A. Skelton, J. R. Beattie, and J. E. Howes.



### Business Activity in September

Productive operations, due mainly to the termination of war contracts, recorded a decline in September from the preceding month. The index of the physical volume of business was 205.3 against 212.7 in August, a decline of slightly more than three per cent.

The majority of the factors indicating the trend of mineral production receded to lower levels in the latest month for which statistics are available. The output of coal was 1,178,000 short tons against 1,203,000 in the preceding month.

The index of manufacturing production dropped about  $3\frac{1}{2}$  points to 244.1. A minor increase was shown in the operations of the flour milling industry in the latest month. The release of cigarettes receded from 1,178 million to 1,123 million, while the cigars made available rose from 15.4 million to 16.4 million. After seasonal adjustment the index of tobacco releases rose from 191 to 194.

Increases were shown in the marketings of cattle and sheep, while hogs showed a contra-seasonal decline. The net result was that the index of operations in the meat packing industry rose from 149.1 to 153.9. The decline in the output of cheese and butter was somewhat greater than normal for the season.

Decline was shown in the output of the boot and shoe industry in the latest available month. The index of production for the textile industry, based on data for the cotton, wool, rayon and clothing divisions, declined from 128.2 in August to 125.3.

The timber scaled in British Columbia rose from 232 million feet to 261 million, in the latest available month. Other factors indicating the trend of forestry operations showed recession, the index for the industry dropping from 125.2 to 123.8. The primary iron and steel industry produced steel ingots and pig iron in lesser volume during September, the decline in pig iron being less than normal for the season.

The output of firm electric power receded from 154.6 to 146.3, the index having shown consecutive decline, month by month, since April. The distribution index based upon internal trade, railway transportation, imports and exports, receded from 184.0 in August to 166.8. The projected index of retail sales was at a slightly higher level. The index of wholesale distribution rose from 161.6 to 174.0 in the latest available month. Tons carried on steam railways were at a considerably lower level, the index receding from 201.8 to 147.4. The index of imports, after seasonal and price adjustment was nearly maintained at 151.1 against 153.2 in the preceding month. Considerable decline was shown in exports, the index dropping from 329 to 239.9. The total was \$225 million against \$301 million in the preceding month.

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### External Trade of Canada in September

The external trade of Canada, excluding gold, was valued at \$347,240,000 in September as compared with \$427,051,000 in the corresponding month of last year, a decline of 18.7 per cent. Decreases were recorded in the value of both imports and domestic exports. For the first nine months of the current year, Canada's external trade aggregated \$3,744,636,000 as compared with \$3,907,041,000 in the corresponding period of 1944, a decrease of 4.2 per cent.

The domestic merchandise export trade of Canada in September was valued at \$220,810,000 as compared with \$264,619,000 in the corresponding month of last year, a decrease of 16.6 per cent. The aggregate for the first nine months of the present year was \$2,516,966,000 as compared with \$2,546,621,000 in the same period of 1944, a decline of 1.2 per cent.

Merchandise imports in September were valued at \$122,259,000 as compared with \$159,710,000 a year ago, a decline of 23.4 per cent. The nine-month total stood at \$1,187,770,000 as compared with \$1,330,015,000 in the similar period of 1944, a decline of 10.7 per cent.

Foreign commodities were re-exported in September to the value of \$4,171,000 as compared with \$2,722,000 in September 1944, while the nine-month total was \$39,901,000 as compared with \$30,406,000 a year ago.

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### Merchandise Imports in September

Merchandise imported into Canada for consumption was valued at \$122,259,000 in September as compared with \$159,710,000 in the corresponding month of last year, a decline of 23.4 per cent. The total for the first nine months of the current year was \$1,187,770,000 as compared with \$1,330,015,000 in the similar period of the preceding year, a decrease of 10.7 per cent. Imports from foreign countries in September were valued at \$98,839,000 as compared with \$143,321,000 a year ago, and from British Empire countries \$23,420,000 as compared with \$16,389,000.

The United States was the leading source of supply, the September total from that country standing at \$89,588,000 as compared with \$135,588,000, and in the nine months ended September, \$907,948,000 as compared with \$1,106,805,000. Imports from the United Kingdom in September were recorded at \$9,631,000 as compared with \$7,092,000, and in the nine months ended September, \$98,687,000 as compared with \$71,981,000.

Imports in September from other leading sources of supply were as follows, totals for September 1944 being in brackets; British South Africa, \$1,054,000 (\$493,000); British India, \$3,389,000 (\$2,272,000); Newfoundland, \$2,878,000 (\$1,033,000); Australia, \$1,541,000 (\$876,000); New Zealand, \$990,000 (\$275,000); Colombia, \$1,185,000 (\$916,000); Mexico, \$1,182,000 (\$999,000); Venezuela, \$1,857,000 (\$1,523,000).

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### Cost-of-Living Index for October 1

The Dominion Bureau of Statistics cost-of-living index, on the base 1935-1939=100 fell from 119.9 to 119.7 or by 0.2 points, between September 1 and October 1. A further decline in the food group from 134.2 on September 1 to 133.3 overbalanced minor advances for rents, clothing, and miscellaneous items. In the food section, firmer prices for eggs were outweighed by seasonal declines in potatoes and other vegetables. The rent index mounted from 112.1 to 112.3, clothing from 122.2 to 122.4, and miscellaneous items from 109.5 to 109.6. Fuel and light remained unchanged at 106.7, and homefurnishings and services at 119.4.

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### Price Index Numbers of Commodities and Services Used by Farmers

The composite Dominion price index of commodities and services used by farmers, including family living requirements, advanced another 1.6 points to 136.0, between April and August, 1945. Compared with August, 1944, an increase of 2.2 points was recorded. This comparison is of special significance because of the marked seasonal movements in farm wage-rate index numbers.

The greatest change between April and August was registered by the wage-rate index which increased from 281.4 to 301.0; this rise of 19.6 points compared with a rise of 17.2 points in the same period of 1944. The August, 1944 wage-rate index was 275.2 The family living requirements component mounted 0.7 points to 123.7 between April and August, 1945, but changes in prices of operating requirements, apart from wages, were of negligible proportions.

Somewhat sharper wage-rate increases in eastern Canada, resulted in the eastern series for farm operating requirements recording a greater rise than the western series. Other eastern components of the operating requirement series were also slightly firmer than the corresponding western indexes.

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### Index Numbers of Retail Sales in September

Retail sales in Canada were five per cent higher in September of this year than in the corresponding month of last year and were also five per cent higher than the dollar volume of business transacted in August, according to results of the monthly survey made by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The general index number of retail sales, on the base 1935-1939=100, stands at 187.2 for September, compared with 178.1 for August, and 176.1 for September a year ago. Sales during the nine months ended September averaged 7.7 per cent higher than in the similar period of 1944.

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### Index Numbers of Wholesale Sales in September

September wholesale sales increased seven per cent this year over September 1944, according to statements received from wholesale establishments representing nine different lines of business. The seven per cent gain is in line with the nine per cent increase recorded in the August comparison, while the dollar volume of September sales was two per cent greater than business realized in August. The composite index of sales on the base, 1935-1939=100, stands at 220.4 for September, 216.3 for August, and 205.4 for September, 1944. Cumulative totals for the first nine months of this year exceed by nine per cent the sales transacted 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 November 1 totalled 222,957,579 bushels as compared with 349,307,866 on the corresponding date of last year. Visible stocks in Canadian positions on the latest date amounted to 202,717,996 bushels as compared with 323,296,552 a year ago, and in United States positions, 20,239,583 bushels as compared with 26,011,314 bushels.

Deliveries of wheat from farms in the Prairie Provinces during the week ended November 1 totalled 11,590,863 bushels as compared with 15,731,385 in the preceding week. During the elapsed portion of the present crop year which commenced August 1, marketings of wheat aggregated 130,467,766 bushels as compared with 142,412,135 bushels in the similar period of the crop year 1944-45.

The following quantities of coarse grains were also delivered from farms in the three Prairie Provinces during the week ending November 1, totals for the preceding week being in brackets; oats, 2,447,499 (3,416,375) bushels; barley, 3,326,062 (4,245,247); rye, 169,309 (248,921); flaxseed, 340,376 (552,287).

### Stocks of Raw Hides and Skins

Stocks of raw cattle hides held by tanners, packers and dealers in Canada amounted to 690,202 at the end of September, compared with 641,808 at the end of August, and 441,780 at the end of September, 1944. Calf and kid skins on hand decreased from 609,692 at the end of August to 535,037 at the end of September. Stocks of other types at the end of September included 81,458 dozen sheep and lamb skins, 362,670 goat and kid skins, and 16,386 horse hides.

### Stocks of Butter, Cheese and Eggs

Stocks of creamery butter in nine of the principal cities of Canada as at the opening of business on November 1 were 43,256,138 pounds as compared with 43,009,568 on the corresponding date of last year, and 46,249,224 on October 1. Cheese holdings were 39,878,580 pounds as compared with 38,054,251 a year ago, and 43,166,560 pounds last month. Shell eggs totalled 4,000,945 dozen, while last year the total was 2,415,914 dozen. Holdings of frozen egg meats were 15,278,101 pounds as compared with 32,831,534 pounds last year and 18,670,543 pounds last month.

### Production of Iron and Steel in September

Production of pig iron in Canada amounted to 135,227 net tons in September as compared with 145,406 net tons in the corresponding month of last year. The total for the current month included 103,533 tons of basic iron, 17,848 tons of foundry iron and 13,846 tons of malleable iron. During the first nine months of the present year, the output of pig iron totalled 1,367,389 net tons as compared with 1,412,385 in the similar period of 1944.

September production of steel ingots and steel castings was recorded at 198,508 net tons as compared with 242,725 in September of last year. Output in the month under review included 189,640 net tons of ingots and 8,868 net tons of castings. For the first nine months of this year, production of steel ingots and castings aggregated 2,248,215 net tons as compared with 2,236,481 net tons in the similar period of 1944.



Ferro-alloys output in September amounted to 13,517 net tons as compared with 15,668 in the preceding month and 14,568 in September, 1944. During the first nine months of this year, 143,607 tons were produced as compared with 182,428 in the like period of 1944.

#### August Production of Copper and Nickel

The Canadian production of new copper in August amounted to 39,480,312 pounds as compared with 42,389,648 in the preceding month and 44,743,580 in the corresponding month of last year. During the first eight months of the current year, 340,585,246 pounds were produced as compared with 372,288,727 in the similar period of 1944.

Nickel production in August was recorded at 21,991,592 pounds as compared with 23,893,945 in July and 23,848,093 in August of last year. For the first eight months of the present year, the production of nickel totalled 181,685,114 pounds as compared with 188,041,325 in the corresponding period of 1944.

#### Mica Mining Industry in 1944

Canadian production of mica of all grades in 1944 totalled 6,684,846 pounds valued at \$841,026 compared with 8,050,692 pounds worth \$553,856 in 1943. The value of the 1944 production established an all-time high record in the Canadian mica mining industry. Of the total output in 1944, mines in the Province of Quebec contributed 2,274,634 pounds valued at \$178,899, and Ontario deposits 3,486,212 pounds worth \$646,745; shipments from mines in British Columbia amounted to 924,000 pounds worth \$15,382.

#### Sales of Clay Products in August

Sales by producers of clay products made from domestic clays during August totalled \$814,502 as compared with \$774,773 in July and \$733,395 in the corresponding month of last year. Sales in August this year included the following: building brick, \$413,405; structural tile, \$95,289; drain tile, \$56,635; sewer pipe, \$112,639; fireclay blocks and shapes, \$21,120; pottery, \$69,983.

#### Sales of Electric Storage Batteries

Sales of electric storage batteries and parts by principal Canadian producers were valued at \$2,402,117 during the third quarter of 1945 as compared with \$2,727,638 in the second quarter of 1945, and \$2,409,278 in the third quarter of 1944.

#### Trends in Food Distribution in September

September wholesale grocery sales were two per cent lower than the volume of business realized in September 1944, and four per cent below August 1945. Total sales transacted in the January-September period of this year were six per cent greater than in the similar period of 1944. September sales of 953 chain store units in the food retailing field were four per cent lower than in the corresponding month of last year, while sales of independent retail food outlets were unchanged in the same comparison.

#### Manufacturing Industries of the Maritime Provinces

Manufacturing production in the Maritime Provinces continued to advance during 1943, the gross value of products totalling \$338,975,000 as compared with \$286,626,000 in the preceding year, an increase of 18.3 per cent. Employment was furnished to 62,222 persons who received \$86,955,000 in salaries and wages, the number of employees increasing by 13.6 per cent, and the salaries and wage payments by 26.6 per cent.

Shipbuilding, with an output valued at \$42,071,263 was the leading industry in 1943 from the standpoint of the gross value of production, displacing pulp and paper which normally is in first place. The production of pulp and paper ranked second with a value of \$37,201,163, followed by fish curing and packing with \$28,703,037, sawmills \$24,449,107, primary iron and steel \$23,931,519, butter and cheese \$12,564,621, railway rolling-stock \$8,052,152.



Manufacturing in Nova Scotia is to a considerable extent dominated by the steel and forest products industries, although there is also a large sugar and petroleum refinery. The production of iron and steel products constitutes the main industrial group and accounted for \$79,993,879 or 42.4 per cent of the entire output of the province. Wood and paper normally comes second, but in 1943 was out-ranked by the animal products group with a value of \$25,279,407. Wood and paper products came a close third with \$25,185,060, followed by non-metallic mineral products with \$24,924,747, vegetable products \$17,444,152, textiles and textile products, \$11,437,088.

The forest products industries dominate the manufacturing field in New Brunswick. Production of wood and paper products led all groups in 1943 by a wide margin, the gross value of production being \$56,842,659. The vegetable products group followed with an output of \$31,722,418. Iron and steel products with a value of production of \$18,930,490 came third, followed by animal products with \$17,970,536, textiles and textile products \$7,577,636.

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#### Bulletin Showing Distribution of Occupations by Industry

The Dominion Bureau of Statistics has released a bulletin presenting statistics designed to indicate the range of employment throughout industry and the services available to persons in various classes of occupations at the 1941 Census. As such the matter contained in the tables should be of value to members of the Armed Services in making plans for re-establishment in civilian occupations, to placement and employment officers, and to persons engaged in vocational guidance activities.

The bulletin consists of three tables. Table 1 is a summary showing how the total number of gainfully occupied at the 1941 Census, classified by broad groups of occupations, were distributed throughout the major divisions and groups of industries and services. Table 2 lists individual occupation classes and shows the number and per cent of the number reported in each occupation class at the last census in each of the major divisions of industry.

Table 3 shows in considerable detail the distribution of persons in each occupation class at the 1941 Census by industry groups and classes. This table gives comprehensive data on the scope of employment throughout industry afforded to persons in a wide range of occupations, and also shows for each occupation the number employed in each industry at the last census, thus indicating for any specific occupation the relative importance of various industries as sources of employment for persons in that occupation.

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#### Car Loadings on Canadian Railways

Car loadings on Canadian railways for the week ended October 27 reached a high record for the year at 78,755 cars as compared with 77,374 cars for the preceding week and 78,738 cars for the corresponding week of last year. Total loadings in the eastern division declined from 49,010 cars in 1944 to 47,174 cars, but in the western division the total advanced from 29,726 cars to 31,581 cars.

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#### Reports Issued during the Week

1. Advance Preliminary Statement of Stocks of Butter, Cheese and Eggs in Cold Storage in Nine of the Principal Cities of Canada, November 1 (10 cents).
  2. Car Loadings on Canadian Railways - Weekly (10 cents).
  3. Trade of Canada, September (10 cents).
  4. Imports Into Canada for Consumption, by Countries, September (10 cents).
  5. Summary of Canada's Imports for Consumption, September (10 cents).
  6. Factory Sales of Electric Storage Batteries, Third Quarter, 1945 (10 cents).
  7. Clay Products Made From Canadian Clays, August (10 cents).
  8. Copper and Nickel Production, August (10 cents).
  9. Stocks of Raw Hides and Skins, September (10 cents).
  10. Indexes of Wholesale Sales, September (10 cents).
  11. Indexes of Retail Sales, September (10 cents).
  12. The Mica Mining Industry, 1944 (25 cents).
  13. Macaroni and Kindred Products Industry, 1944 (15 cents).
  14. Current Trends in Food Distribution, September (10 cents).
  15. Price Index Numbers of Commodities and Services Used by Farmers, August (10 cents).
  16. Production of Iron and Steel, September (10 cents).
  17. Price Movements, October (10 cents).
  18. Distribution of Occupations by Industry (25 cents).
  19. Canadian Grain Statistics - Weekly (10 cents).
  20. Manufacturing Industries, of the Maritime Provinces, 1943 (25 cents).
  21. International Bridge, Tunnel and Ferry Companies, 1944 (15 cents).
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