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Record Production of Wheat Flour in March

Wheat flour production by Canadian mills in March reached a new high level of 2,392,-927 barrels, exceeding the production recorded for any month since 1920, states the Dominion Bureau of Statistics in its monthly report on Canadian milling. The March figure compares with output of 2,145,675 barrels in February and 2,160,706 barrels in the corresponding month of 1945.

The records of the Bureau show production slightly above 2,300,000 barrels only in four other months since 1920, namely November 1922, October and November 1923, and October 1925. "In those earlier years," states the report, "the production trend was seasonal with the high production occurring in October and November and tapering off in the following months. Recent tables indicate a tendency on the part of mills to maintain a steady output month by month."

Total flour manufactured in the first eight months of the present crop year amounted to 17,526,791 barrels as compared with 16,494,505 barrels in the corresponding period of the 1944-45 year.

Wheat used in the manufacture of flour in March amounted to 10,661,527 bushels as compared with 9,518,921 bushels in February and 9,602,488 bushels in March 1945. Total wheat milled to the end of March was 78,017,817 bushels as against 73,234,513 bushels in the similar period of the previous crop year.

The following quantities of coarse grains were also ground in March, figures for March 1945 being in brackets: oats, 2,371,539 (2,141,040) bushels; corn, 213,999 (186,-950); barley, 693,042 (638,365); mixed grain, 2,274,564 (2,336,066) bushels.

Stocks and Marketings of Wheat and Coarse Grains

Stocks of Canadian wheat in store or in transit in North America at midnight on April 25 totalled 85,922,046 bushels as compared with 88,606,872 bushels in the previous week and 327,952,969 bushels on the corresponding date of last year, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Visible supplies in Canadian positions amounted to 85,322,939 bushels and in United States positions to 599,107 bushels; the comparable figures for the corresponding date of 1945 being 307,313,598 and 20,639,371 bushels respectively.

Deliveries of wheat from farms in Western Canada during the week ended April 25 totalled 3,501,619 bushels as compared with the revised figure of 2,662,151 bushels in the preceding week. From the start of the present crop year to April 25 total deliveries were 203,788,095 bushels as against 288,451,490 bushels in the corresponding period of the previous crop year.

The quantities of coarse grains also delivered from farms in the Prairie Provinces during the week ended April 25 (totals for the preceding week in brackets) were as follows: oats, 2,146,299 (1,494,768) bushels; barley, 638,263 (494,470); rye, 18,369 (15,734); flaxseed, 10,405 (20,292) bushels.

Stocks of Butter, Cheese and Eggs

Stocks of creamery butter held in cold storage and dairy factories in nine of the principal Canadian cities amounted to 1,662,161 pounds at the opening of business on May 1 as compared with 1,901,559 pounds on April 1 and 6,065,771 pounds on May 1, 1945, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Holdings of cheese totalled 10,840,095 pounds as compared with 11,403,340 pounds on April 1 and 12,874,641 pounds on May 1, 1945.

Cold storage holdings of eggs in the principal cities on May 1 amounted to 3,797,-354 dozen as compared with 1,264,375 dozen on April 1 and 5,212,420 dozen on May 1, 1945. Holdings of fresh eggs were recorded at 1,425,848 dozen as compared with 1,471,617 dozen on April 1, while stocks of frozen eggs totalled 3,647,577 pounds as compared with 3,124,-725 pounds on April 1 and 6,706,412 pounds on May 1, 1945.

World Wheat Situation

The widespread publicity now being given to the grave and urgent nature of the food crisis has served to focus the attention of the world upon the rapidly dwindling supplies of the few countries still in a surplus position. The peoples of these relatively fortunate areas are responding quickly to the demands made upon them, states the April review of the wheat situation issued by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, and many new measures have been designed to bring out immediately more exportable supplies.

Canada has released considerable quantities of oats and lower-grade wheat which had been held in reserve for feeding purposes; the United States has put into effect a new set of regulations designed to decrease domestic consumption and to speed farm deliveries of grain; Argentina has raised her price to the farmers at least for a limited period; and Australia has taken action to implement her high acreage goal by promising an increase in price to the farmers. The United Kingdom is playing its part by agreeing to the diversion of cargoes destined for her own ports to even more needy areas, by reducing the size of her standard loaf of bread by one-eighth and by decreasing the amount of grain allowed to brewers to 90 per cent of the pre-war level.

In Canada the below-average 1945 crop, together with the high rate of exports maintained through the first eight months of the crop year, had reduced total stocks of wheat at March 31 to 213.4 million bushels from a level of 504.2 million bushels at the same date last year. This figure includes farm-held stocks of 106 million bushels, out of which must come seed for the 1946 crop and whatever amounts may be required for live stock and poultry feed during the remaining third of the crop year; any balance then remaining will be divided between deliveries and July 31 carry-over stocks of sufficient magnitude to meet farm requirements until new grain is available. In spite of current low stocks, it is anticipated that Canada's exports of wheat and flour in terms of wheat will reach, and perhaps exceed, the figure of 340 million bushels for the crop year.

In the United States it became apparent near the end of the first quarter of the year that earlier enacted measures were not bringing sufficient grain into position for export. On April 19 a new six-point program for famine relief was announced. This program includes a bonus of 30 cents per bushel on wheat delivered on the certificate plan up to May 25 and also provides that millers must reduce their production of flour for domestic consumption to 75 per cent of the quantity distributed domestically in the corresponding months of 1945. The Administration is now hopeful of meeting the export goal, although certain other sources in the country are rather less optimistic.

On April 17 the Argentine Government announced a wheat price increase equivalent to approximately 45 cents (Canadian) per bushel for a limited period. It is hoped that this decree may speed up farm deliveries and also encourage seeding of a greater acreage to wheat in the new crop year.

In Australia, rains during February built up subsoil moisture reserves and provided favourable conditions for wheat seeding, which started this month (April) and will continue through June. Doubts are still expressed as to the achievement of the wheat acreage goal of 15.5 million acres. Scarcity of fertilizer, machinery and labour is still deemed to be a limiting factor.

In Europe, weather conditions are reported to have continued favourable for growing crops, but rainfall has been light in some areas recently and soaking rains now would be most welcome for winter crops and to facilitate development of spring grains. Optimism over the general crop is tempered by the shortages of fertilizers and smaller acreages in some countries than were planted during pre-war years.

The French North African colonies, currently importing large quantities of grain, will start to harvest within the next two or three weeks. Crops are expected to be much larger than a year ago.

Loadings of Railway Revenue Freight

Loadings of railway revenue freight in March amounted to 7,919,000 tons as compared with 7,163,000 tons in the preceding month and 8,488,000 tons in the corresponding month of last year, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The index number of tons loaded, on the base, 1935-1939=100, stood at 192.7 for March this year, as compared with 184.5 in February, and 206.6 in March, 1945.

Births, Deaths and Marriages in February

Births registered in cities, towns and villages of Canada with a population of 10,000 and over in February numbered 10,697, deaths 5,186 and marriages 4,089 as compared with 10,218 births, 4,708 deaths and 3,061 marriages in February 1945, showing increases of five, 10 and 34 per cent respectively.

Country General Store Sales in March

Sales of country general stores in Canada were 20 per cent higher in March than in February and six per cent above the level of March 1945, according to indexes compiled by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Unadjusted indexes, on the base 1935-1939=100, stood at 167.7 for March 1946, 139.8 for February 1946 and 153.2 for March 1945.

Compared with the first three months of 1945, the average gain in sales for the first quarter of this year was eight per cent. Sales in British Columbia were up 18 per cent, far exceeding increases for any other province. Those in Manitoba and Saskatchewan showed increases of four and five per cent respectively, while in other provinces gains were close to the increase of eight per cent for Canada as a whole.

Department Store Sales in March

Sales of Canadian department stores were 11 per cent higher in dollar value in March than in the corresponding month of 1945 and 37 per cent greater than in February of this year, according to the preliminary report on department store sales in March issued by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. For the first three months of the year sales showed a gain of 14 per cent as compared with the first quarter of 1945. Unadjusted indexes of sales, on the base 1935-1939=100, stood at 222.3 for March, 200.5 for March 1945, and 162.2 for February 1946. After adjustments for differences in number of business days, for seasonal fluctuations, for the effect of the date of Easter and other business factors, the adjusted index rose sharply to 258.9 for March as compared with 215.5 for March 1945.

Durable goods departments continued in March the wide expansion recorded for recent months, being led by sales of household appliances and electrical supplies with an advance of 97 per cent and radios, musical instruments and supplies with a gain of 143 per cent over March 1945. In spite of the fact that Easter occurred in March 1945, sales of apparel departments showed moderate increases over the substantial volume of last year.

Sawmill Operations in February

Production by sawmills east of the Rockies in the 500,000-feet and over class reporting for February totalled 81,444,000 feet board measure as compared with a revised total of 70,965,000 feet board measure by those reporting for January, an increase of nearly 15 per cent, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Shipments by these sawmills amounted to 79,060,000 feet board measure in the month as against 76,381,000 in January, a gain of 3.5 per cent. Stocks on hand at the end of February were 270,934,000 feet board measure, showing a slight rise over the January total of 268,550,000 feet.

The February figures, contained in the second monthly bulletin issued by the Bureau on production, shipments and stocks on hand of sawmills, are based upon returns from 775 sawmill operators, whose mills accounted for approximately 59 per cent of the total output east of the Rockies in 1944, while the revised figures for January are compiled from 780 returns, including 117 received too late for the initial report covering January. Operations in British Columbia are not included in the two reports to date, since they differ widely from those in the rest of Canada and must be dealt with separately. Arrangements for the collection of statistics from that province are in progress, however, and these will be included in the monthly surveys as early as possible.

Sawing operations were reported by 260 of the 775 operators making returns for February, these mills producing 74,017,000 feet board measure of softwoods and 7,427,000 of hardwoods. This compares with 243 mills reporting sawing in January, according to the revised figures, with production of 66,182,000 feet board measure of softwoods and 4,783,000 of hardwoods. The returns indicate that the greatest number will start sawing late in April or in May.

By provinces, output in February was as follows: Nova Scotia, 11,765,000 feet board measure; New Brunswick, 10,260,000; Quebec, 18,233,000; Ontario, 6,878,000; Manitoba, 2,744,000; Saskatchewan, 9,365,000; and Alberta, 22,199,000 feet board measure.

Cheques Cashed Against Individual Accounts

Cheques cashed against individual accounts were 6.6 per cent greater in March than in the same month of last year, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The total was \$5,678 million against \$5,329 million, the increase having been relatively less than in recent months. Cheques cashed against current accounts in March amounted to \$5,339 million against \$5,101 million in the same month of last year. An important increase was recorded in cheques cashed during the first quarter over the same period of 1945. The total was \$17 billion against \$14.8 billion, a gain of 14.6 per cent. The increase for the Dominion, amounting to \$2,172 million, was shared by each of the five economic areas.

Each of the five economic areas recorded advances in March over the same month of last year. While the increase in Ontario was of minor proportions, important increases were shown in the Maritimes, the Prairie Provinces and especially in British Columbia.

The increase in the Maritime Provinces was 10.6 per cent, the total rising from \$112 million to \$124 million. The aggregate for the Province of Quebec was \$1,638 million, or eight per cent greater than in March, 1945. The cheque transactions in Montreal rose from \$1,367 million to \$1,503 million.

Ten of the fourteen centres in Ontario reached higher levels in March, and the total for the province advanced from \$2,673 million to \$2,674. The increase in Toronto amounted to \$173.5 million, the total in March having been \$1,651 million. The total for Ottawa receded from \$804 million to \$614 million.

Nine of the ten centres in the Prairie Provinces recorded increases, the aggregate for the area rising to \$806 million, or by 14.6 per cent. A marked increase was shown in the cheques cashed in British Columbia, the total advancing from \$326 million to \$437 million.

Production of Leather Footwear in February

Production of leather footwear in Canada showed a further gain in February, total-ling 3,496,811 pairs as compared with 3,400,437 pairs in January and 3,075,890 pairs in February 1945, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. For the two months ended February the output amounted to 6,897,248 pairs as compared with 5,954,334 pairs in the corresponding period of 1945, an increase of nearly 16 per cent. Of the February total, 668,005 pairs were soled with materials other than leather.

Footwear for women and young women accounted for 1,559,372 pairs of the total output recorded for February as compared with 1,416,211 pairs for February 1945; men's footwear for 898,745 pairs (779,316); boys', 180,488 (155,375); youths', 51,775 (43,875); misses', 278,167 (211,687); children's, 226,830 (229,940); babies' and infants', 287,112 pairs (219,815). Totals of the larger items for the two months ended February were: women's and young women's, 3,089,837 pairs; men's, 1,790,351; misses', 523,333; children's, 450,265; babies' and infants', 579,208; boys', 338,848 pairs.

Fur Farms of Quebec in 1944

Revenue of fur farms in Quebec from the sale of live fur-bearing animals and pelts totalled \$1,856,416 in 1944, a decrease of \$173,644 from the total of \$2,030,060 in 1943, according to an advance report issued by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics in co-operation with the Quebec Bureau of Statistics. The value of sales of live animals rose to \$205,887 from \$186,976 in 1943, while the value of pelts sold declined to \$1,650,529 from \$1,843,084. Both the number of live animals and of pelts sold in 1944 was larger than in 1943.

There were 2,071 farms in operation in 1944, a decline of 58 from the previous year. The number of animals on farms at December 31, 1944, was 44,634, an increase of 6,396 over the number at the end of 1943, and fur-bearing animals born in 1944 totalled 70,508 as compared with 70,750 in 1943. Land and buildings were valued at \$1,471,621 as compared with \$1,360,939 for 1943 and animals at \$2,605,027 as against \$2,375,384, making an increase in total value of \$412,326.

Production of Wire Fencing in February

Production in Canada of steel wire fencing in February totalled 1,887 tons, and included 1,749 tons of farm fencing, 13 tons of lawn fencing and 125 tons of woven chain link fabric, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

Shipments of Primary Iron and Steel Shapes

Shipments of rolled iron and steel shapes by Canadian steel mills totalled 243,245 net tons in January and 224,855 net tons in February, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics in the first of a new monthly series of reports prepared to provide current statistics on the shipments of iron and steel shapes from Canada's steel mills. The total for January consisted of 235,182 net tons of carbon steel and 8,063 net tons of alloy steel and that for February of 219,993 and 4,862 net tons of carbon and alloy steel, respectively.

Of the total shipments of carbon steel in the two months, 68,473 net tons were for railway operating uses, 30,175 for railway cars and locomotives, 25,734 for building construction, and 17,860 net tons for agricultural implements and machinery. In the case of alloy steel, the largest total was 6,528 net tons for use by the automotive industries.

In addition to figures of shipments from Canadian steel mills, the new report contains details of imports of primary forms of iron and steel by countries of origin.

Shipments of Steel Wire in February

Shipments of steel wire by Canadian producers amounted to 8,870 tons during February, including 6,184 tons of plain wire, 1,453 tons of galvanized wire, 255 tons of other coated wire, and 978 tons of barbed wire, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

Reports Issued during the Week

1. Advance Preliminary Statement of Stocks of Butter, Cheese and Eggs in the Principal Cities of Canada, May 1 (10 cents).
 2. Canadian Grain Statistics - Weekly (10 cents).
 3. Canadian Milling Statistics, March (10 cents).
 4. Canadian Grain Statistics - Weekly (10 cents).
 5. Car Loadings on Canadian Railways - Weekly (10 cents).
 6. Railway Revenue Freight Loadings, March (10 cents).
 7. Monthly Review of the Wheat Situation, April (10 cents).
 8. Registrations of Births, Deaths and Marriages, February (10 cents).
 9. Monthly Indexes of Country General Store Sales, March (10 cents).
 10. Prices and Price Indexes, March (10 cents).
 11. Advance Report on the Fur Farms of the Province of Quebec, 1944 (10 cents).
 12. Production, Shipments and Stocks on Hand of Sawmills, February (10 cents).
 13. Department Store Sales, March (10 cents).
 14. Trade of Canada: Exports by Articles and Countries (detailed),
March and three months ended March 1946 (25 cents).
 15. Cheques Cashied Against Individual Accounts, March (10 cents).
 16. Steel Wire, February (10 cents).
 17. Wire Fencing, February (10 cents).
 18. Monthly Report on Primary Iron and Steel in Canada, January
and February (10 cents).
 19. Production of Leather Footwear in Canada, February (10 cents).
 20. Live Stock and Animal Products Statistics, 1944 (50 cents).
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