

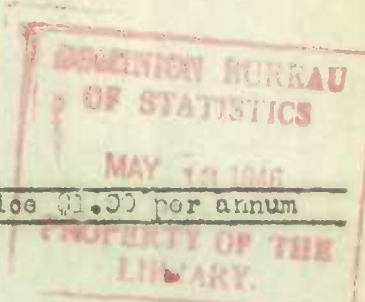
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Productive Operations in March

Four of the six factors indicating the trend of economic conditions rose in March over the preceding month. Indexes of the physical volume of business, Dominion bond prices and bank deposits reached higher levels than in the second month of the year. A minor increase was recorded in wholesale prices, the index on the base of 1926 rising from 104.6 to 104.9. The advance in bond prices was a striking development of the month. Considerable increases were shown in provincial balances, notice and demand deposits, while Dominion balances with the chartered banks receded to a lower position. The index of common stock prices showed minor recession to 119.2 against 121.2 in the preceding month.

The index of the physical volume of business recorded an increase of about 5.6 per cent, the standing in March having been 191.4. A considerable number of the components reached higher levels in the third month of the year. Advances were recorded in mineral production and in the new business obtained by the construction industry. A minor increase was shown in the output of electric power, while the index of distribution, based upon railway traffic, internal and external trade, rose from 166.7 to 175.9. After seasonal adjustment, advances were shown in carloadings, imports and exports.

Gold receipts at the Mint rose from 228,564 fine ounces to 232,876, a minor recession, however, having been shown after seasonal adjustment. The index of manufacturing production receded more than seven points to 130.7. The milling industry was more active in the latest available month. The output of sugar showed a contra-seasonal recession. The cigarettes released from bond declined from 1,105 million in February to 967 million. The increase in the release of cigars was less than normal for the season.

The meat packing industry was slightly more active in March, the index moving up nearly five points to 148.4. The increase in the output of dairy products was greater than normal for the month. Decline was shown in the export of canned salmon. The output of boots and shoes showed an increase less than normal for the season in the latest available month. The textile industry was more active, the index for the group rising from 131 to 139.

The output of newsprint was at a maximum but the increase after seasonal adjustment was less than normal for the season. A gain was recorded in the outward shipments of planks and boards, while wood pulp and shingles receded to a lower point. Further improvement was shown in the amount of timber scaled in British Columbia. The increase in the output of steel ingots and castings was less than normal for the season, while the output of pig iron rose from 143,171 to 152,049 tons. Activity in the secondary iron and steel industry showed recession in the latest month.

The new business obtained by the construction industry was exceptional for the month. The total of contracts awarded was \$57.6 million against \$33.1 million, the index rising from 256 to 426. The output of electric power was 3,537 million kilowatt hours against 3,163 million in the preceding month, the increase being greater than normal for the season.

The index of tons carried by the steam railways was 132.7 in March against 124.5 in February. Retail and wholesale sales recorded advances in the latest available month. Imports were \$139.9 million against \$117.0 million. Exports advanced from \$154.7 million to nearly \$180.0 million.

Output of Domestic Washing Machines

Production of domestic-type washing machines during March amounted to 9,695 units, of which 8,239 were electric, 824 gasoline and 632 hand-operated machines, according to a report released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The March output compares with 9,515 units in February and 8,942 in January, making a total production for the three months of 28,152 units, of which 24,090 were electric machines. Imports of domestic washing machines totalled 676 units during March and 1,810 during the three months, while exports amounted to 336 and 1,310 units, respectively.

External Trade of Canada in March

Canada's external trade, excluding gold, was valued at \$319,922,000 in March as compared with \$271,731,000 in February and \$439,493,000 in March 1945, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The decline of 27 per cent as compared with the corresponding month of last year was more moderate than that recorded for February and was due, as in that month, to the virtual cessation of shipments of war materials and equipment. For the first quarter of the current year external trade aggregated \$923,306,000 as compared with \$1,155,775,000 in the similar period of 1945.

Domestic merchandise exports from Canada in March were valued at \$178,377,000 as compared with \$301,175,000 in March 1945, a decline of \$122,798,000 as compared with a drop of \$119,571,000 in total trade. Exports in the iron, non-ferrous metals and miscellaneous groups of commodities were sharply lower, while advances were recorded in agricultural and vegetable products, and wood and paper products.

Merchandise imports in March showed a further advance, being valued at \$139,949,000 as compared with \$132,486,000 in March 1945. Gains were recorded also for February and January, the total for the first quarter of the year rising to \$397,255,000 as compared with \$374,544,000 for the first three months of 1945.

March exports of foreign commodities amounted to \$1,595,489 as compared with \$5,831,459 in March 1945. The three-month total was \$5,440,565 as against \$13,193,598 for the first quarter of 1945.

Canada's Merchandise Imports in March

Canada's merchandise imports in March were valued at \$139,949,000 as compared with \$116,996,000 in February and \$132,486,000 in March 1945, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The total for the first three months of the current year was \$397,255,000 as compared with \$374,544,000 in the corresponding period of 1945.

Commodity imports from the United States were lower at \$100,132,000 as against \$105,334,000 in March 1945, the total for the three months of the current year being \$283,583,000 as against \$299,954,000 last year. Imports from the United Kingdom advanced in value to \$14,435,000 as compared with \$9,284,000 last year, and the three-months' total to \$47,496,000 as compared with \$25,418,000 in the similar period of 1945.

Among British Empire countries, imports from British India in March were valued at \$2,141,000 as compared with \$3,099,000 in the corresponding month of last year; Australia, \$2,002,000 as compared with \$1,713,000; British Guiana, \$1,018,000 as against \$860,000; British East Africa, \$983,000 as against \$152,000; New Zealand, \$842,000 as compared with \$137,000; and British South Africa, \$730,000 as compared with \$510,000.

Among foreign countries, commodity imports from Mexico were valued at \$2,105,000 as compared with \$1,687,000 in March 1945; Venezuela, \$1,384,000 (\$926,000); Honduras, \$1,370,000 (\$659,000); Brazil, \$732,000 (\$451,000); Colombia, \$658,000 (\$1,062,000); Guatemala, \$652,000 (\$47,000); Switzerland, \$687,000 (\$453,000).

Cost of Living at April 1

The Dominion Bureau of Statistics cost-of-living index advanced from 120.1 for March 1, to 120.8 for April 1, 1946. The principal part of this increase came from the food group, which rose from 133.1 to 135.1. Price increases for butter, pork products, and vegetables were mainly responsible for the change recorded by the food index. Three other group index changes were for fractional amounts only. Homefurnishings and services rose from 120.4 to 120.7, clothing from 123.1 to 123.2, and miscellaneous items from 110.9 to 111.0. Fuel and light remained unchanged at 107.2, and rentals at 112.3. The April, 1946 cost-of-living index of 120.8 exceeded slightly the wartime high level of 120.5 recorded for August, 1945.

Production of Asphalt Roofing

Canadian production of asphalt roofing materials in March included 378,967 squares of shingles and rolled roofing and 3,597 tons of felts and sheathing as compared with 327,320 squares of the former and 3,280 tons of the latter in February, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. These figures compared with production of 278,836 squares and 4,060 tons respectively in March 1945.

Employment Situation at March 1

Industrial employment throughout the Dominion showed a further moderate contraction at March 1, in a seasonal movement which did not differ greatly in extent from that indicated as normal in the experience of the period since 1920, states the Dominion Bureau of Statistics in its monthly bulletin on the employment situation and payroll statistics. The decline was decidedly smaller than the loss reported at February 1 as compared with a month earlier, and was also less than that at March 1 of last year.

The 15,644 establishments co-operating in the Bureau's latest survey of employment and payrolls had a combined working force of 1,702,983 men and women, a reduction of 2,522 persons, or 0.1 per cent, as compared with 1,705,505 at February 1. On the other hand, the weekly salaries and wages paid at the date under review, aggregating \$55,249,434, showed an increase of 1.3 per cent over the amounts disbursed by the same firms at the beginning of February.

The relatively slight shrinkage in industrial employment lowered the index, on the 1926 base, from 167.2 at February 1 to 166.9 at the date under review, as compared with 178.2 a year earlier. The seasonally-corrected figure showed little change, being 173.7 at February 1 and 173.9 at March 1.

There was a small recession of a contra-seasonal character in manufacturing at the beginning of March, repeating the experience at the same date in 1945 and 1944; those three being the only years in the record in which the trend at March 1 has been downward. The general loss was not on a large scale, approximately 1,300 persons having been released since February 1. The most pronounced declines took place in animal-food factories, mainly in the meat-processing division, in which seasonal inactivity was a factor, the contraction being greater than usual for the time of year, although rather smaller than that indicated at March 1, 1945. There was also a fairly large reduction in iron and steel works, resulting mainly from shortage of materials brought about by the steel strike in the United States.

Among the non-manufacturing classes, logging, transportation and construction and maintenance showed curtailment, chiefly of a seasonal character. There was little general change in services, while expansion was reported in mining, communications and trade. The advances were contrary to the usual movements in those industries at the beginning of March.

Claims for Unemployment Insurance in March

Decline was recorded in the number of applications for unemployment insurance benefit in March as compared with the preceding month, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The number filed in March this year was 50,706 as compared with 59,098 in February, and 13,307 in March last year. January of this year, with 71,932 claims, represents the high point in the monthly figures.

There was a reduction also in the number of live claims in force at the end of March, the total being 154,820, as compared with 161,997 at the end of February. The March, 1945, figure was 27,110. Insurance offices adjudicated 61,059 claims in March, 48,875 being considered entitled to benefit and 12,184 not entitled to benefit.

Benefit was paid to 156,180 persons who received \$7,205,264 for 3,461,900 compensated unemployed days during March. This compares with 139,222 persons paid \$5,902,879 for 2,901,809 days during February and 32,153 persons paid \$1,523,429 for 783,399 days in March, 1945. The average duration of the unemployment compensated was 22.2 days in March, 20.8 days in February and 24.4 days in March, 1945. The average amount of benefit paid per beneficiary was \$46.13 in March, \$42.40 in February and \$47.38 in March, 1945. The average amount paid per compensated day of unemployment was \$2.08 in March, \$2.03 in February, and \$1.94 in March, 1945.

Production of Electric Refrigerators in March

Manufacture of domestic-type electric refrigerators showed a further advance in March, amounting to 4,189 units as compared with 3,295 units in February and 2,384 in January, according to figures issued by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Imports of complete electric refrigerators of all types during March were also higher, numbering 632 units as against 298 units in the previous month and 201 units in January.

Acreage Intentions for Field Crops in 1946

Canadian farmers intend to seed approximately 3,000,000 more acres to wheat this year than in 1945, according to the annual Spring survey conducted as of April 30 by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. This increase will be obtained largely at the expense of oats, barley and summerfallow. The acreage figures obtained from farmers are merely indicative of their plans at the end of April, and depending upon conditions affecting seeding subsequent to April 30, acreages actually seeded may vary considerably from these forecasts.

The acreage intended for wheat in 1946 is estimated at 26,451,000 acres as compared with 23,414,100 acres in 1945, an over-all increase of 13 per cent or 3,036,900 acres. The increase in the Prairie Provinces which amounts to 3,265,000 acres is greater than the net increase for all Canada, this somewhat unusual situation being accounted for by a concurrent decrease of 230,000 acres in Ontario's fall wheat seeding from that of the previous year. Saskatchewan's share of the increased wheat acreage over last year is estimated at 1,905,000 acres; Alberta shows an increase of 955,000 acres and Manitoba follows with an increase of 405,000 acres. Expressed as percentage increases over the 1945 seeded acreage, Manitoba's estimated increase amounts to 19 per cent, with Saskatchewan and Alberta each exhibiting an increase of 14 per cent.

Should the country's intended wheat acreage as set out above be realized, Canada's wheat acreage in 1946 will almost equal that of 1939 when 26,756,500 acres were seeded to wheat. The figure would, however, still be well below the record year of 1940 when Canadian farmers seeded 28,726,200 acres to wheat.

For the Dominion as a whole the indicated acreage to be seeded to oats is 13,691,900 acres as compared with 14,393,200 acres in 1945, a decrease of five per cent. All of the decrease appears to be accounted for in the Prairie Provinces. Manitoba's acreage is expected to be down three per cent, while Saskatchewan and Alberta each anticipate a decreased seeding of nine per cent as compared with last year's figures. Nova Scotia, Quebec and Ontario intend to increase their oat seedings over 1945 by four per cent, six per cent and four per cent, respectively. Little, if any, change is anticipated by the remaining provinces.

The intended barley acreage for Canada is estimated at 6,737,500 as compared with 7,350,100 in 1945, a decrease of eight per cent. Again, practically all of the decrease may be ascribed to the Prairie Provinces. Manitoba's seeding intentions indicate a reduction of seven per cent while Alberta and Saskatchewan anticipate barley acreages will be decreased by eight per cent and 11 per cent, respectively, from last year. All other provinces with the exception of Quebec (which shows a two per cent increase) indicate slightly lower barley acreages for this year.

The intended 1946 flax figure of 1,049,000 acres for all Canada is only one per cent below the 1945 level of 1,059,200 acres. While the over-all picture has changed little, there appears to be a considerable shift in production as between provinces. Alberta, Saskatchewan and Ontario anticipate decreases of 13 per cent, five per cent and five per cent, respectively, while Manitoba expects to seed at least 115 per cent of her last year's acreage.

Stocks and Marketings of Wheat and Coarse Grains

The visible supply of Canadian wheat in North American positions at mid-night on May 2 was approximately one-quarter the volume held on the corresponding date of last year, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Total for the latest date was 81,561,935 bushels as compared with 321,588,226 on the corresponding date of last year. Latest stock figure included 81,080,272 bushels in Canadian positions and 481,663 bushels in United States positions, as compared with 301,004,993 bushels and 20,583,233 bushels, respectively, on the corresponding date of last year.

Deliveries of wheat from farms in the Prairie Provinces were reduced during the week ended May 2, the total being 2,728,797 bushels as compared with 3,518,623 in the preceding week. Marketings of wheat from farms in western Canada from the commencement of the present crop year to May 2 aggregated 206,533,896 bushels as compared with 291,822,125 in the similar period of the preceding crop year.

The following quantities of coarse grains were also delivered from farms in the Prairie Provinces during the week ended May 2, totals for the preceding week being in brackets: oats, 2,206,146 (2,130,130) bushels; barley, 635,520 (675,303); rye, 19,648 (10,562); flaxseed, 9,970 (10,571) bushels.

Dairy Production in April

Creamery butter production in April amounted to approximately 19.6 million pounds, a decrease of 6.7 per cent as compared with the output of nearly 21 million pounds in April 1945, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. There were decreases in all provinces except Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick and Quebec, the most pronounced declines being in Ontario, Saskatchewan and British Columbia.

For the four months, January to April, production aggregated 49.7 million pounds as compared with 57.7 million pounds in the corresponding period last year, an over-all decrease of almost 14 per cent. Total output in the four months was lower for every province than in the like period of 1945, with the greatest drop in production recorded for Ontario and the four western provinces.

Cheddar cheese production in April showed a decrease of approximately 33 per cent as compared with the corresponding month of last year, amounting to 6.8 million pounds as against 10.2 million pounds. The total for the four months was 12.5 million pounds as against 18.7 million pounds. April production decreased in all provinces except Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick. Figures for Ontario and Quebec, the leading producing provinces, were about 36 and 31 per cent, respectively, below those of April 1945.

Ice cream made in April amounted to approximately 1.4 million gallons as compared with 1.5 million gallons in April 1945. For the four months, January to April, the output was 3.6 million gallons as against nearly four million gallons in the similar period of last year. Manufacture of concentrated milk products totalled 28.3 million pounds in April, registering a moderate decrease of one per cent as compared with the corresponding month of last year, and comprised 23.5 million pounds of concentrated whole milk products and 4.8 million pounds of concentrated milk by-products.

Coal Output and Imports in February

Production of coal in Canada during February totalled 1,638,333 tons, an increase of 9 per cent over the output of 1,504,759 tons in the corresponding month of 1945, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics reports. The January output was 1,816,640 tons, showing an increase of 7 per cent over the figure for January 1945.

Output for February included 1,097,191 tons of bituminous coal, 367,413 tons of sub-bituminous coal and 173,729 tons of lignite coal. Production in Alberta amounted to 831,332 tons; Nova Scotia, 455,612 tons; Saskatchewan, 173,729 tons; British Columbia, 154,316 tons; New Brunswick, 23,294 tons.

Imports of coal into Canada during February totalled 1,302,801 tons as compared with 775,770 tons in February 1945, while exports amounted to 43,656 tons as against 72,203 tons.

Coke Production in February

Production of coke from ovens and gas retorts during February amounted to 298,899 tons as compared with 315,923 tons in the preceding month and 314,083 tons in February 1945, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Tonnage produced during February was made up of 83,558 tons from Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Quebec, 191,881 tons from Ontario and 23,460 tons from western Canada.

Production of Crude Petroleum

Canadian output of crude petroleum and natural gasoline in December 1945 amounted to 666,869 barrels, making a total output of 8,569,197 barrels for 1945 as compared with 10,099,404 barrels in 1944, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The December production compares with 653,722 barrels in November and 879,124 barrels in December 1944.

Output during December in Alberta totalled 642,553 barrels; New Brunswick, 2,288; Ontario, 9,250; Saskatchewan, 4,415; and the Northwest Territories, 8,363 barrels.

Sales of Manufactured and Natural Gas in February

Sales of manufactured gas by distributing companies in Canada totalled 2,196,695,000 cubic feet during February, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Of this amount, 1,137,015,000 cubic feet were for domestic use, other than house heating; 383,905,000 for industrial use; and 361,857,000 cubic feet for commercial use. Sales of natural gas during the month amounted to 4,307,834,000 cubic feet, of which 2,447,238,000 were for domestic use, 1,117,744,000 for commercial use, and 724,230,000 cubic feet for industrial use.

Production of Iron and Steel in March

Production of pig iron in Canada in March fell to 158,049 net tons from last year's corresponding tonnage of 165,817, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. First-quarter output also was lower, amounting to 444,905 net tons as compared with 471,273 in the similar period of 1945.

March output of steel ingots and steel castings moved down to 249,117 net tons from the March 1945 figure of 277,461 net tons. Production in the latest month included 240,589 tons of ingots and 8,528 tons of castings. Combined output for the first three months of this year was 727,633 tons as compared with 796,647 in the same period of 1945.

Production of ferro-alloys in March amounted to 8,605 net tons as compared with 10,372 in the preceding month and 16,434 in March 1945, the total for the first quarter of 1946 amounting to 30,155 net tons as compared with 41,966.

Copper Production and Exports in February

Canadian production of new copper in February amounted to 28,298,803 pounds as compared with 32,021,065 pounds in January and 39,903,080 pounds in February 1945, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The total of 60,319,868 pounds for the first two months of the year compares with a total of 84,284,508 pounds for the similar period of 1945. Output of refined copper totalled 26,217,617 pounds in February and 54,750,403 pounds in the two months January and February.

Exports of copper ore, concentrates and matte during February amounted to 2,980,000 pounds valued at \$208,600, and of copper ingots, bars, slabs and billets to 14,287,700 pounds valued at \$1,831,723. Totals for the two months were: ore, concentrates and matte, 5,638,000 valued at \$394,660; ingots, bars, slabs and billets, 39,129,900 pounds at \$5,030,740.

February Production and Exports of Nickel

Nickel production in Canada during February was recorded at 12,450,169 pounds, states the monthly report issued by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. This compares with output of 13,823,097 pounds in January and 20,724,884 pounds in February 1945. Total output for the first two months of the year was 26,273,266 pounds as against 44,495,152 pounds in the corresponding period of last year. Exports of nickel totalled 9,333,800 pounds valued at \$2,346,099 in February, and 20,910,600 pounds valued at \$5,341,875 in the two months.

Stocks of Non-Ferrous Scrap Metal

Stocks of non-ferrous scrap metals in Canada at the end of February, as reported by dealers to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, were as follows: (figures for first of month in brackets); aluminum scrap, 8,229,135 (8,007,859) pounds; brass and bronze scrap, 6,310,178 (6,244,763); copper scrap, 3,077,819 (3,192,734); magnesium scrap, 38,706 (38,706); nickel scrap, 169,291 (159,783); tin-lead scrap, 8,445,268 (7,400,031); zinc scrap, 783,691 (594,415); drosses, 833,332 (808,761) pounds.

Building Permits in March

Now housing units represented in the building permits issued by municipalities reporting to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics totalled 4,061 in March as compared with 1,956 in the preceding month and 1,742 in the corresponding month of last year. Of the total for March this year, 3,600 permits were for new buildings, including 2,793 single dwellings, 276 doubles and duplexes, 69 triplexes, and 420 flats and apartments. Conversions in March numbered 381.

During the first three months of the current year, permits were issued for the construction of 8,034 dwelling units as compared with 3,647 in the corresponding period of the preceding year. First-quarter total for this year included permits for the construction of 7,162 new buildings, comprising 5,731 single dwellings, 410 doubles and duplexes, 106 triplexes, 681 flats and apartments, and 235 with business premises. There were also 872 conversions.

The value of new residential buildings, additions and repairs thereto, was \$17,862,627 in March this year, \$7,819,812 in February, and \$7,326,522 in the corresponding month of last year. The aggregate value of new residential buildings, and additions, etc. amounted to \$34,116,160 during the first three months of this year as compared with \$13,176,779 in the same period of 1945.

The total value of building permits issued by municipalities covered by the monthly survey reached a total of \$35,733,524 as compared with \$16,562,616 in the preceding month, and \$12,782,715 in the corresponding month of last year. The total for March this year included \$27,993,553 for new construction, and \$7,739,971 for additions, alterations and repairs. Industrial and commercial permits in March were valued at \$16,525,064. For the first three months of the current year, permits were issued to the value of \$67,566,938 as compared with \$25,401,381 in the similar period of 1945, an advance of 166 per cent.

Indexes of Retail Sales in March

The dollar volume of sales in Canadian retail stores was 26 per cent higher in March than in the preceding month and was greater by eight per cent than in March last year, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Unadjusted indexes of sales, on the base 1935-1939=100, stood at 210.3 for March, 167.0 for February and 194.3 for March, 1945. Sales in the first quarter of the present year averaged 11 per cent higher than in the similar period of 1945.

Those trades which specialize in merchandising durable household equipment continue to feature the results for individual kinds of business. Radio and electrical stores led all other trades with a 70 per cent increase in March of this year over March, 1945. This outstanding gain is a reflection, not only of the increased output of radios and electrical appliances, but also of the relatively low volume of business to which these stores were confined in March a year ago when many of the commodities normally handled were not available.

Wholesale Sales in March

Wholesale sales transacted in March were 16 per cent greater than the dollar volume of sales obtained in March 1945, according to statements received by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics from wholesale establishments representing nine lines of business. The general index of sales on the base 1935-1939=100, stands at 234.2 for March, 210.4 for February, and 201.4 for March, 1945. Cumulative sales for the first quarter of this year stand 13 per cent above sales transacted in the corresponding three months of 1945.

Substantial gains over March last year were reported by the following trades: automotive equipment, 44 per cent; hardware, 30 per cent; footwear, 28 per cent; fruits and vegetables, 26 per cent. The drug, grocery, tobacco and confectionery trades each recorded 10 per cent more business. Clothing sales were up 5 per cent, while dry goods wholesalers reported a two per cent gain in trading.

Business Trends Among Independent Food Stores, 1941 to 1944

Reflecting the conditions of heightened wartime employment and widened purchasing power, average rates of stock turnover and volume of sales among independent stores selling groceries and a combination of groceries and meats were generally higher in 1944 than in 1941, a sample study of average operating results of unincorporated retail food stores by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics indicates. On the other hand, both gross trading profit and total expenses of the stores supplying reports for the study were lower in proportion to sales in 1944 than in 1941, with the decline in the latter generally greater than in the former. Net earnings before income taxes and withdrawals consequently were somewhat higher in 1944 than in 1941, both in proportion to sales and in dollar figures.

The bulletin containing the results of this sample study is the second recently released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics presenting average operating results in selected branches of retail trade for 1944 and, where possible for both 1941 and 1944. It reviews average results in 1944 for five classifications of food stores: grocery stores without fresh meats, combination grocery and meat stores, meat market stores, fruit and vegetable stores, and confectionery stores. The number of reports for 1941 from continuing stores in 1944 in the last three classes, however, did not provide a sufficiently large sample for reasonable comparisons of results for these stores in the two years.

For the comparative analysis of results of grocery stores without fresh meats and combination meat and grocery stores in 1941 and 1944, the reporting stores were grouped according to the following amounts of annual sales: less than \$20,000; \$20,000 to \$49,999; and \$50,000 and over, each group being further divided on the occupancy basis of owned or rented. Results were then calculated for each group and subdivision.

In the case of the grocery stores, the sample showed a stock turnover in 1941 ranging from a low average of 6.2 times to a high of 10.3 times, and in 1944 a range from 8.6 to 13.3 times. Sales showed increases in 1944 over 1941 varying from 19 to 67 per cent. In 1941 gross trading profit varied between 14.5 and 15.9 per cent of sales, while in 1944 the range was between 13.3 and 15.2 per cent. Total operating expenses in 1941 averaged from 7.1 per cent to 10.4 per cent of sales and in 1944 from 5.8 to 9.3 per cent, payrolls remaining relatively stable in relation to size of business, and rentals, declining in relation to sales. Net earnings before income tax and withdrawals averaged from 4.4 to 8.5 per cent of sales in 1941 and from 5.3 to 8.4 per cent in 1944. The average proprietor's net earnings in dollars per store for the sample ranged from \$771 to \$3,738 in 1941, while in 1944 the range was from \$1,249 to \$5,319, the low and the high figures in each year being in the smallest and the largest business respectively.

Results recorded from the sample for combination stores showed closely parallel results to those for grocery stores without meats. Stock turnover showed an increase from averages of 8.2 to 19 times in 1941 to 10.7 to 25.3 times in 1944; the value of sales in 1944 rose by amounts varying from 27 to 56 per cent and averaging about 39 per cent overall; gross trading profit decreased from averages ranging from 15.6 to 24 per cent of sales in 1941 to 13.8 to 22.2 per cent in 1944; and total operating expenses moved down from a 1941 range of 10.2 to 13.1 per cent of sales to one of 8.3 to 10.3 per cent. The low average for proprietor's net earnings increased from 2.6 in 1941 to 4.1 per cent of sales in 1944, while the high average declined from 13.8 to 13.2 per cent of sales, the trend being upward for the greater part of the sample, however. Average proprietor's net earnings rose from a range of \$968 to \$3,920 in 1941 and \$1,321 to \$4,462 in 1944.

The bulletin reviews in detail the trends of business for the five classes of food stores in 1944, the studies being made in response to a demand for such information from retail merchants.

Output of Central Electric Stations

Central electric stations in Canada produced 3,537,104,000 kilowatt hours during March as compared with 3,586,511,000 kilowatt hours in the corresponding month of 1945 and 3,183,011,000 kilowatt hours during February, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Primary power output declined from 2,946,448,000 kilowatt hours in March 1945 to 2,361,744,000 kilowatt hours, while output of secondary power rose from 640,063,000 to 675,360,000 kilowatt hours. For the first quarter of 1946 consumption of primary power was 2.6 per cent below that for the corresponding period of 1945, while consumption of secondary power was up by 11.4 per cent.

Factory Sales of Electric Storage Batteries

Sales of electric storage batteries and parts by principal Canadian producers during March were valued at \$765,946 as compared with \$774,357 in February, according to figures compiled by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The March sales included 109,577 batteries valued at \$584,029 for the ignition of internal combustion engines; 10,430 cells at \$50,-275 for farm lighting plants; 920 cells at \$22,575 for railway service; 1,223 batteries at \$4,962 for motor-cycle use; batteries for other purposes, including telephone switchboards, valued at \$68,926; and miscellaneous parts and supplies at \$35,179.

Car Loadings on Canadian Railways

Car loadings on Canadian railways for the week ended April 27 amounted to 65,411 cars as compared with 60,536 cars for the previous week (depressed by the holiday) and 71,461 cars for the corresponding week last year. Loadings in the eastern division declined from 46,172 cars in 1945 to 43,725 cars, and in the western division from 25,289 to 21,686 cars.

Loadings of grain declined from 11,671 cars in 1945 to 8,601 cars, live stock from 2,099 to 1,591 cars, fresh meats from 569 to 357 cars, coal from 5,001 to 4,147 cars, pulpwood from 2,633 to 2,082 cars, and automobiles, trucks and parts from 1,651 to 968 cars. Sand, stone, gravel, etc. increased from 2,800 to 3,639 cars, gasoline and oils from 2,533 to 3,099 cars, wood pulp and paper from 3,126 to 3,866 cars, and merchandise (l.c.l.) from 16,257 to 17,542 cars.

Revenues and Expenses of Railways in January

Canadian railways earned \$55,796,577 during January as compared with \$58,388,550 in January 1945, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Freight revenues declined by 5.3 per cent, and passenger revenues by 3.8 per cent, for decreases in revenue ton miles of 2.2 per cent, and in passenger miles of 10 per cent. Operating expenses were increased from \$50,758,561 to \$52,637,332 or by 3.7 per cent, and the operating income was reduced from \$4,637,065 to \$135,087. The total pay roll was reduced from \$29,-973,729 to \$29,770,660 or by \$203,069, for an increase in the number of employees from 167,621 to 168,591.

Reports Issued during the Week

1. Production of Iron and Steel, March (10 cents).
2. Operating Revenues, Expenses & Statistics of Railways, January (10 cents).
3. Monthly Review of Dairy Production, April (10 cents).
4. Canadian Grain Statistics - Weekly (10 cents).
5. Intentions to Plant Field Crops. Winter-killing and Spring Condition of Fall Wheat. Fall Rye, and Hay and Clover Meadows. Progress of Spring Seeding. (10 cents).
6. Trade of Canada, March (10 cents).
7. Summary of Canada's Imports for Consumption, March (10 cents).
8. Imports into Canada for Consumption, by Countries, March (10 cents).
9. Employment Situation at Beginning of March (10 cents).
10. Price Movements, April (10 cents).
11. Monthly Report on Non-Ferrous Scrap Metal and Secondary Non-Ferrous Ingot, February (10 cents).
12. Monthly Sales of Manufactured and Natural Gas, February (10 cents).
13. Domestic Type Electric Refrigerators, March (10 cents).
14. Factory sales of Electric Storage Batteries, March (10 cents).
15. Domestic Washing Machines, March (10 cents).
16. Petroleum and Natural Gas Production, December (10 cents).
17. Central Electric Stations, March (10 cents).
18. Asphalt Roofing Industry, March (10 cents).
19. Statistics of Dairy Factories, 1944 (25 cents).
20. Car Loadings on Canadian Railways - weekly (10 cents).
21. Copper and Nickel Production, February (10 cents).
22. Coal and Coke Statistics, February (10 cents).
23. Dealers' Report on Non-Ferrous Scrap Metal, February (10 cents).
24. The Fertilizer Trade in Canada, July 1, 1944 - June 30, 1945 (25 cents).
25. Traffic Report of Railways, January (10 cents).
26. Indexes of Wholesale Sales, March (10 cents).
27. Indexes of Retail Sales, March (10 cents).
28. Current Trends in Food Distribution, March (10 cents).
29. Production of Leading Minerals, February (10 cents).
30. Operating Results of Unincorporated Retail Stores, Bulletin No. 2, 1944 (25 cents).
31. Lests, Trees and Wooden Sheddings, 1944 (10 cents).
32. Building Permits Issued in March (10 cents).
33. Statistical Report on the Operation of the Unemployment Insurance Act, March (10 cents).

