## WEEKLY BULLETIN

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## Canada's Merchandise Exports in May

Canada's merchandise export trade recorded a further decline in May but the reduction was less pronounced than in March and April, according to the monthly summing issued by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. May exports were valued at \$106,978,000 as compared with \$178,488,000 in April and \$315,192,000 in May, 1945. The decrease in May as compared with May last year was 37.2 per cent, as against 42.9 per cent in April, and 40.8 per cent in March. Export trade for the first five months of the current year aggregated \$896,077,000 as compared with \$1,395,552,000 in the similar period of 1945, an average decrease of 34.9 per cent.

Exports of agricultural and vegetable products declined to \$53,013,000 as compared with \$76,919,000 for May last year, but showed an advance above the April value which stood at \$46,436,000. The cumulative total for the five months amounted to \$231,999,-000, a decline of less that \$7 million from the aggregate for the similar period of 1945. Wheat shipments in May fell about \$16 million in value, from \$40,303,000 last year to \$24,271,000, but for the five months were substantially higher at \$108,631,000 as against \$89,736,000. Exports of wheat flour continued their previous advance, being valued at \$13,655,000 for the month as compared with \$9,584,000 in the corresponding month last year, and for the January-May period at \$51,527,000 as compared with \$39,438,000.

Shipments in the animals and animal products group declined to \$29,782,000 as compared with \$33,913,000 last year, but also showed an advance in value over the April figure of \$24,146,000. Meats were again sharply lower at \$11,498,000 as compared with \$16,133,000; fish and fishery products declined slightly to \$5,865,000 compared with \$6,288,000 while furs, mainly undressed, rose from \$1,888,000 to \$4,265,000.

Reversing the decline of April, shipments in the fibres, textiles and textile products group were valued at \$7,888,000 as compared with \$4,291,000 in May last year.

Major factor in this increase was a jump in wool exports from \$589,000 to \$3,871,000.

Exports in the wood and paper group continued the advance of previous months, being valued at \$48,765,000 as against \$39,269,000 last year, and for the five months at \$221,949,000 as compared with \$180,339,000. Newsprint advanced to \$21,808,000 from \$14,684,000 and planks and boards to \$8,168,000 from \$6,746,000, other items showing only minor changes.

Shipments of iron and iron products were again sharply lower at \$17,810,000 as compared with \$59,719,000, with the January-May total standing at \$92,480,000 as against \$305,800,000. Greatly reduced figures for automobiles and parts again accounted for the major part of the decrease. Among other larger items of the group, exports of farm implements and machinery rose to \$3,282,000 as compared with \$1,924,000, and engines and boilers to \$2,410,000 compared with \$1,319,000.

Exports of non-ferrous metals and their products were valued at \$23,814,000 as compared with \$29,891,000, sharp decreases being recorded for aluminum and electrical apparatus and increases for copper, lead, zinc, and precious metals (except gold). Shipments of non-metallic minerals rose slightly to \$4,809,000 from \$4,736,000 a year earlier. Those of chemicals and allied products declined to \$5,826,000 as compared with \$13,324,000, lower values being registered for explosives, inorganic chemicals and industrial alcohols. For the miscellaneous commodities group the May total was \$5,271. ooo as compared with \$53,129,000 for May last year. The sharp decrease in this group was due to the almost complete cessation in exports of aircraft, ammunition and other items for war purposes recorded in this classification.

Commodity exports to the United Kingdom in May were valued at \$54,902,000 as compared with \$115,574,000 in the corresponding month of last year and \$40,974,000 in April, the total for the five months being \$235,458,868 as against \$484,147,398. May shipments to the United States amounted to \$72,200,000 as compared with \$117,228,000, and in the five months to \$329,950,000 compared with \$505,914,000. Next highest in value were those to British South Africa at \$7,113,415, sharply up from \$2,150,774; and to France at \$5,290,157 compared with \$4,867,942.

# Grop Conditions in Canada

Scattered showers and good rains in some districts have helped to maintain the generally satisfactory crop conditions established in the Prairie Provinces last week. However, considerable areas, particularly in Manitoba, and perhaps to a lesser extent in Saskatchewan, require immediate rainfall to prevent deterioration. The sawfly flight is now in progress throughout southern Alberta, while cutworm damage has been moderate to severe in some east-central parts of that province. Severe cutworm damage has occurred over a considerable region in west-central Saskatchewan. The first hail damage of the season has been reported from local areas in Saskatchewan and Manitoba. Rainfall since April 1 remains below normal in all three provinces but average to better-than-average subsoil moisture reserves from the previous season have helped to maintain fairly good cultural conditions.

Showers have benefited some areas of Manitoba, particularly around Winnipeg and south to Emerson. The district noth and north-east of Winnipeg is quite dry. Conditions in the remainder of this province are considered fairly satisfactory, but light hay crops are anticipated in the easter section and reduced yields are in view for the Portage Plains. Reports from the north-western crop districts are optimistic with crop conditions average to better-than-average.

Early June rains and higher temperatures during the past week have promoted growth generally throughout Saskatchewan and grain crops are making satisfactory progress. Wheat is stooling and stands are fair to good. Moisture supplies are deemed adequate for the present but more rain will be required very soon in parts of south-western, central and west-central districts where subsoil moisture reserves are low.

Alberta prospects are the most promising of the three Prairie Provinces; all crops made rapid growth during the past week. Scattered showers and some heavy rains have maintained the favourable moisture supplies of a week ago. A few correspondents now report the need of warmer weather.

Seeding in Ontario is practically completed and spring grains are growing well in central, south-western and nothern parts of the province. Cool, wet weather and frosty nights in the eastern counties are retarding growth. Pastures and hay crops have improved greatly in the past two weeks and are considered good in south-western and central Ontario but below normal in some areas of eastern Ontario. Fall rye and fall wheat have headed out on short straw but fairly good yields are anticipated.

With the exception of the Montreal district, seeding in Quebec advanced rapidly during the past two weeks and is now being quickly drawn to a close if not already completed. In many districts, the cereals are progressing favourably and for the province as a whole the prospects are fair to good. As in the case of the cereal crops, the comdition of the pastures varies considerably and the hay crop is considered medium to excellent. For the most part, the outlook for apples appears to be favourable this year. Most of the ordinary insects have made their appearance in the crops, but the most important so far are the tent caterpillars, leaf rollers, cutworms and potato beetles.

In the Maritimes the weather has been cool and dry during the past two weeks. Seeding is now practically completed but growth has been slow. Good fruit crops are looked for but more rain is necessary to maintain the prospects for strawberries. The outlook for the hay crop has declined but pastures continue to be satisfactory.

The weather in British Columbia during the past ten days has been cooler with frequent rain. Haying has commenced and fall seeded grains are now in full head. All fruit crops are promising and pears are expected to be a record crop.

### Stocks and Marketings of Wheat and Coarse Grains

The visible supply of Canadian wheat in all North American positions was reduced by 5,624,000 bushels during the week ending June 13, the total being 54,242,436 bushels as compared with 59,866,406 bushels on June 6, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The total for June 13 represented less than 25 per cent of the stocks held on the same date last year when the total was 268,313,528 bushels.

Deliveries of wheat farms in the Prairie Provincew during the week ending June 13 also were lower, amounting to 2,022,539 bushels as compared with 2,185,159 in the preceding week. Overall deliveries of wheat from western farms have been running lower during the present crop year than in the preceding year, and the total up to June 13 fell from 312,281,310 bushels to 219,710,301 bushels.

The following quantities of coarse grains were also delivered from farms in the Prairie Provinces during the week ending June 13, totals for the preceding week being in brackets: oats, 1,480,655 (1,677,585) bushels; barley, 542,277 (606,374); rye, 4,433 (6,897); flaxseed, 14,444 (10,866).

### Stocks of Fruit and Vegetables

Cold storage holdings of fruit, frozen and in preservatives, were reduced on June 1, the total being 12,935,316 pounds as compared with 14,983,416 pounds on May 1, and 18,356,311 pounds on the corresponding date of last year, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Canadian apples held in cold and common storage amounted to 12,574 bushels as compared with 48,445 bushels on June 1 last year, and 61,206 bushels on May 1. Holdings of vegetables — frozen and in brine — also were lower, June 1 stocks amounting to 1,752,575 pounds as compared with 2,026,249 pounds on May 1, and 1,989,706 pounds on June 1, 1945.

### Estimates of Value and Volume of Tobacco Crop

Farm value of the 1945 Canadian tobacco crop, including all types, was \$30,622,600 as compared with \$31,001,900 in the preceding season, a decline of 1.3 per cent, according to revised estimates contained in the third report on the 1945 commercial tobacco crop issued by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Average farm price was 3.8 cents higher at 33.2 cents per pound, but the crop at 92,345,200 pounds was 13,070,300 pounds smaller than that of the preceding year.

## Stocks of Raw Hides and Skins in April

Stocks of raw cattle hides held by tanners, packers and dealers in Canada amounted to 681,552 at the end of April compared with 778,504 at the end of the preceding month and 659,376 at the end of April last year, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics April 30 stocks this year were of Canadian origin, no foreign hides having been reported. Calf and kip skins on hand decreased from 422,095 at the end of March to 419,732. Stocks of other types at the end of April included 62,213 dozen sheep and lamb skins, 304,241 goat and kid skins, and 22,782 horse hides.

### Farm Wage Rates Advance

Wage rates paid for farm help in Canada averaged higher at May 15 this year than on the corresponding date of last year, according to returns received by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics from farm correspondents in all provinces of the Dominion. This year's advance follows upon a similar rise last year over the same date of 1944.

For all Canada the average rates were \$3.25 per day and \$71.36 per month with board as compared with \$3.04 and \$66.88 in 1944, and \$4.15 per day and \$96.27 per month without board as against \$3.89 and \$90.60. These rates, the Bureau states, are almost the same as those paid last year at August 15, which is usually the high point for the year, and a further increase by August is thus indicated if crop prospects are maintained at anywhere near normal.

The highest wage rates were reported from the three westernmost provinces. British Columbia led with rates of \$3.80 per day and \$79.60 per month with board and \$4.74 per day and \$104.05 without board. For Ontario the average rates reported were \$3.29 per day and \$64.80 with board, and \$4.19 per day and \$89.40 without board. For Quebec the rates per day were lower than in Ontario at \$3.10 with board and \$3.96 without board, but higher per month at \$68.94 and \$93.96, respectively. Prince Edward Island had the lowest rates at \$2.53 per day and \$55.76 per month with board, and \$3.28 and \$77.37.

Average rates per month with board by provinces, with rates for corresponding date of 1945 in brackets, were: British Columbia, \$79.60 (\$70.15); Alberta, \$76.16 (\$74.76); Saskatchewan, \$77.24 (\$75.92); Manitoba, \$68,75 (\$70.01); Ontario, \$64.80 (\$59.86); Quebec, \$68.94 (\$59.68); New Brunswick, \$76.98 (\$75.32); Nova Scotia, \$70.39 (\$64.07); Prince Edward Island, \$55,76 (\$50.19).

## Fur Production of Canada

Fur production of Canada from wild life and fur farms in the year ended June 30, 1945, was valued at \$30,646,064, a decrease of  $7\frac{1}{2}$  per cent from the previous year's high record value of \$33,147,392, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. There was an increase in the number of pelts taken but average prices were lower for most of the more common furs; averages for mink, muskrat, marten and rabbit pelts were slightly higher.

Ontario was the leading province in value of production at \$7,003,877. Quebec was second with a value of \$5,059,995; Manitoba third with \$4,818,625; followed by Alberta, \$3,884,998; British Columbia, \$3,113,780; Northwest Territories, \$1,388,286; New Brunswick, \$927,158; Prince Edward Island, \$875,785; Yukon Territory, \$669,249; and Nova Scotia, \$593,551. Except for New Brunswick, Mamitoba and British Columbia, values were lower than for the previous year.

Total number of pelts taken was 6,918,596, wild life pelts numbering 6,543,081 and ranch-raised 375,515. There were increases in number of pelts for ermine (weasel), fisher, blue, silver, platinum and white marked fox, lynx, muskrat, rabbit and squirrel, and decreases for beaver, coyote, cross and red fox, marten, mink, otter, raccoon and skunk.

The take of the leading pelts in order of value was: mink, \$7,959,850; muskrat, \$6,143,842; beaver, \$4,624,711; and silver fox, including the new types, \$4,493,392. The highest average price was that of platinum fox at \$69,58; fisher was next at \$65.25, followed by marten at \$47.94; lynx at \$43.43; and white marked fox, \$40.54.

### Sales of Manufactured and Natural Gas

Advance was recorded in the sales of manufactured gas by distributing companies in April, when the total was 2,028,054 M cubic feet as compared with 1,948,939 M in the corresponding month of last year, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. For the four months ended April, sales rose from 8,355,422 M cubic feet a year ago to 8,858,444 M. April sales of natural gas were lower, the total being 2,762,547 M cubic feet as compared with 3,066,099 M in April 1945, while the total for the cumulative period, January - April fell from 15,364,428 M cubic feet in 1945 to 15,083,201 M.

## Sales of Clay Products in March

Shipments during March by plants which made products from Canadian clays were valued at \$801,126 compared with \$684,258 in February and \$547,681 in March 1945, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. For the first three months of the current year shipments of these products were valued at \$2,251,250 as compared with \$1,354,540 in the similar period of 1944.

Producers' sales of products made from Canadian clays in March included the following, totals for March last year being in brackets: building brick, \$408,222 (\$259,460); structural tile, \$96,961 (\$69,682); drain tile, \$20,122 (\$20,256); sewer pipe, \$111,970 (\$64,317); fireclay blocks and shapes, \$21,222 (\$20,860); pottery, \$99,935 (\$74,151); other clay products, \$42,694 (\$38,955).

### Production of Copper and Nickel

Production of new copper in all forms during April amounted to 31,886,954 pounds compared with 32,343,606 pounds in the preceding month, and 42,954,116 pounds in April 1945, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. For the first four months of the present year, production of copper aggregated 123,950,427 pounds as compared with 173,169,959 in the similar period of 1945.

April production of nickel in all forms was recorded at 18,479,626 pounds as compared with 15,677,068 pounds in March, and 21,661,372 pounds in April, 1945. Output for the first four months of this year was 60,429,960 pounds as compared with 89,671,151 pounds in the same period of 1945.

Exports of copper in ore, concentrates and matte in April amounted to 2,107,700 pounds valued at \$147,539, and copper in ingots, bars, slabs and billets, 18,660,800 pounds valued at \$2,402,014, April exports of nickel totalled 30,703,700 pounds valued at \$8,413,006.

# Production of Silver, Lead and Zinc.

Canadian output of silver in all forms in April amounted to 1,055,917 ounces as compared with 1,165,684 ounces in the preceding month and 1,054,327 ounces in the corresponding month of last year, according to figures published by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Production during the first four months of this year totalled 4,467,692 ounces as compared with 4,225,688 in the same period of 1945.

Primary production of unrefined lead in all forms was recorded at 30,864,007 pounds in April as compared with 31,287,569 pounds in March, and 28,172,344 pounds in April, 1945. During the first four months of the present year, 126,697,870 pounds were produced as compared with 113,544,038 pounds in the like period of last year.

Production of primary zinc in all forms in April totalled 41,594,847 pounds as compared with 42,957,226 pounds in March, and 43,385,577 pounds in April a year ago. For the first four months of this year output aggregated 166,070,405 pounds as compared with 185,109,478 in the same period of 1945.

### Shipments and Production of Portland Cement in April

Reflecting the high level of activity in the building trades there was a sharp upward swing in the shipments of Portland cement from Canadian plants in April, the total being 1,002,065 barrels as compared with 603,511 in March, 273,294 in February, and 310,285 in January, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The aggregate for the first four months of this year was 2,189,155 barrels. Actual production of cement also advanced, moving to a new high for the year at 849,934 barrels, and comparing with 704,425 barrels in March, 604,083 in February, and 783,205 in January. The total for the four-month period was 2,941,647. Stocks at plants and warehouses at the end of April were 2,111,016 barrels.

### Man-Hours and Hourly Earnings in Manufacturing Industries

Number of hourly-rated wage-earners in manufacturing showed an increase at April 1 as compared with March 1 — the first time in over a year that employment generally in this group of industries has advanced, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. There was a gain of 1.2 per cent, accompanied by an increase of 2.1 per cent in the total hours worked in the week of April 1, and of three per cent in the aggregate hourly earnings. The greater activity indicated at the beginning of April was partly due to the resumption of operations in a number of important industries which had been affected, directly and indirectly, by industrial disputes in Canada and the United States.

Data was tabulated from 6,118 manufacturers employing 717,356 hourly-rated wage-earners, who received the sum of \$21,799,319 for services rendered in 31,866,549 hours. The time worked strenged 44.4 hours per wage-earner, and the earnings, 68.4 cents per hour, or \$30.37 in the week. For the week of March 1, the same employers hadd reported 708,553 hourly rated workers, and had disbursed \$21,171,633 for services rendered in 31,201,856 hours. The latter represented an average of 44 hours per wage-earner, while the average earnings were 67.9 cents per hour, or \$29,88 in the week.

### Dwellings Construction in 1945

Dwelling units created by new building and by conversion or reconversion of existing buildings numbered 47,356 in 1945, according to revised figures issued by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics in a supplement to the report on 1945 housing statistics released in April. The earlier compilation put the total at 46,960 units, which additional reports from municipalities have raised by about 400.

By type of building the revised figures show 32,298 new single dwelling units completed in 1945, 1,800 units in semi-detached or double houses, 235 in rows or terraces, 1,894 in duplexes, 1,044 in triplexes, 2,965 in apartments, 969 in buildings containing business premises and apartments, 181 unclassified, and 5,970 in buildings converted or reconverted. Of the total, 41,386 units were provided by the construction of 35,881 new buildings.

## Production of Domestic-Type Refrigerators

Production of domestic-type electric refrigerators advanced again in April, amounting to 5,299 units as compared with 4,189 in March, and bringing the total for the four months of 1946 to 14,897 units, according to figures issued by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Output in January and February was 2,384 and 3,295 units, respectively. Imports of complete electric refrigerators of all types during April numbered 752 units valued at \$83,968 as against 632 units at \$69,499 in the previous month. For the four months ended April, imports totalled 1,883 units. Imports of refrigerator parts were valued at \$309,047 in April and \$1,030,470 for the four months. Exports of electric refrigerators amounted to 10 units in April and only 14 in the period January - April.

### Summary of Wholesale Sales in 1945

The general level of wholesale trading, as measured by the composite index of sales for the nine lines of business for which figures are available, averaged 10.4 per cent higher in 1945 than in 1944 and was almost 45 per cent higher than in 1941, according to a supplementary bulletin summarizing the results of the monthly surveys conducted in 1945 by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The average of the twelve monthly indexes for 1945 stood at 205.3, indicating that dollar sales were more than twice the average annual volume of business transacted during the five-year period from 1935 to 1939. Price increases accounted for a minor proportion of the overall increase in wholesale trading between 1944 and 1945, the Bureau's wholesale price index for consumers' goods advancing by only 0.7 per cent during this period.

### Car Loadings on Canadian Railways

Car loadings on Canadian railways for the week ended June 8 increased to 69,766 cars from 66,317 cars for the preceding week, loadings of sand, stone, gravel, etc., pulpwood and merchandise (L.C.L.) accounting for 75 per cent of the increase. Compared with loadings of 75,846 cars for the corresponding week last year there was a decrease of 6,080 cars or eight per cent. Loadings in the eastern division increased from 48,004 cars last year to 48,243 cars, but in the western division the total declined from 27,842 to 21,523 cars, due to light loadings of grain.

# Railway Operating Revenues and Expenses in March

Operating revenues of Canadian railways totalled \$59,128,230 during March as compared with \$64,689,022 in the corresponding month of 1945, the monthly summary of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics shows, the decline in March being the eighth consecutive monthly decrease as compared with a year earlier. Freight revenues aggregated \$43,724,626 in March as compared with \$47,635,601 a year ago, a decrease of 8.2 per cent, and passenger revenues were \$8,619,745 as against \$9,797,051, a drop of 12 per cent.

Operating expenses for the month were 3.3 per cent lower at \$50,016,411 as compared with \$51,725,556, and the operating income was reduced to \$5,556,407 as against \$9,237,~782 last year. Freight traffic, measured in revenue ton miles, declined by 3.8 per cent, and passenger miles declined by 17.1 per cent for a decrease in passenger train car miles of only 1.4 per cent. There was an increase in the number of employees from 165,548 last year to 170,687 and payrolls advanced slightly from \$29,304,811 to \$29,587,465.

For the four months, January - March, operating revenues declined from/\$179,189,494 to \$168,268,151, operating expenses from \$151,443,598 to \$150,259,866, and operating income from \$18,301,499 to \$8,665,338.

### Births, Deaths and Marriages in April

Increases were recorded in April as compared with April, 1945, in the number of births, deaths and marriages registered in cities, towns and villages of Canada with a population of 10,000 and over, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Births increased from 11,817 to 13,281, deaths from 4,815 to 5,125, and marriages from 3,835 to 4,734. The respective percentage advances were 12, six and 23.

### Production of Leather Footwear in April

Production of leather footwear in April was recorded at 3,878,000 pairs as compared with 4,020,000 in the preceding month and 3,275,000 in the corresponding month of last year, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. During the first four months of the current year, 14,795,000 pairs were produced as compared with 12,622,000 in the similar period of 1945. Of this year's April total, 711,000 pairs were soled with materials other than leather.

## Reports Issued During the Week

- Telegraphic Crop Report, Canada (10 cents).
   Average Hours Worked and Average Hourly Earnings, April 1. (10 cents).
- Express Statistics, 1945 (10 cents).
- 4. Births, Deaths, and Marriages, April (10 cents).
- 5. Supplement to Housing Statistics, 1945 (25 cents).
- 6. Tobacco Crop Report (10 cents)
- Operating Revenues, Expenses and Statistics of Railways, March (10 cents). Prepared Stock and Poultry Feeds Industry, 1944 (25 cents)

- 9. Cement Products Industry, 1944 (25 cents).
  10. Sales of Manufactured and Natural Gas, April (10 cents).
- 11. Farm Wages in Canada, May 15, 1946 (10 cents).
- 12. Car Loadings on Canadian Railways Weekly (10 cents).
- 13. Copper and Nickel Production, April (10 cents).
  14. Report on Products Made from Canadian Clays, March (10 cents).
- 15. Stocks of Raw Hides and Skins, April (10 cents). 16. Domestic Type Electric Refrigerators, April (10 cents).
- 17. Silver, Lead and Zinc Production, April (10 cents).
- 18. Summary of Monthly Indexes of Wholesale Sales, 1941 1945 (25 cents).
- 19. Stocks of Fruit and Vegetables, June 1 (10 cents). 20. Production of Leather Footwear, April (10 cents).
- 21. Canadian Grain Statistics Weekly (10 cents).
- 22. Summary of Canada's Domestic Exports, May (10 cents).
- 23. Canada's Domestic Exports by Countries, May (10 cents).
- 24. Operating Results of Unincorporated Retail Stores (No. 5), 1944 (25 cents).
- 25. Manufacturing Industries of Canada, 1943 (50 cents).
- 26. Monthly Review of Business Statistics, May (10 cents).
- 27. Fur Production of Canada, 1944-45 (10 cents).
- 28. Cement, April (10 cents).

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