

## WEEKLY BULLETIN

Dominion Bureau of Statistics

Department of Trade and Commerce

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Business Operations in May

Productive operations were uneven in May as compared with the preceding month, the index of the physical volume of business showing recession, according to preliminary calculations.

A majority of the factors indicating the trend of mineral production recorded increases in the month. Silver shipments from Canadian mines rose sharply over the low level of April. Gold receipts at the Mint receded from 246,832 fine ounces to 223,035.

The flour-milling industry was at a lower level of operations in the latest month for which statistics are available. An increase was shown in the output of refined sugar in the last-four-week period. The gain in the release of tobacco was less than normal for the season, the index receding from 215 to 199. The release of cigarettes was 1,158 million, against 1,049 million. The meat-packing industry showed marked contraction in operations during May, the index dropping 21 points to 120.8. The increase in the output of cheese and butter was less than normal for the season, production in April having been at a relatively high point. The raw cotton used by the textile industry showed an advance, the total having been 14.6 million pounds against 13.9 million.

The forestry industry continued to operate at high levels. The production newsprint at 359,943 tons reached a new maximum for any other month. The increase in the export of planks and boards was less than normal for the season, while a gain was reported in the outward shipments of woodpulp. Operations in British Columbia were interrupted by the strike during May. Timber scaled in the province in April was 291 million feet against 254 million in March.

One-half of the factors indicating activity in the secondary iron and steel industry recorded an increase for the latest month for which statistics are available. New business obtained by the construction industry advanced less than normal for the season. The total was \$82.2 million against \$75.9 million.

Bank debits, an excellent measure of financial transactions, were \$6.1 billion compared with \$5.8 billion in the preceding month.

Business Operations in May compared with April and May, 1945.

	May 1946	May 1945	April 1946
Physical Volume of Business ..1935-39=100	+	218.6	192.8
Cost of Living .....1935-39=100	122.0	119.0	120.8
Contracts awarded .....\$	82,199,155	38,271,400	75,919,300
Sugar Manufactured .....lb.	46,854,184	60,609,406	25,406,443
Factory Cheese Production ...lb.	15,817,817	22,229,110	6,830,442
Creamery Butter Production ...lb.	31,498,823	32,265,417	19,589,638
Raw Cotton Consumption .....lb.	14,573,571	13,534,485	13,895,717
Newsprint Production .....tons	359,943	264,464	337,862
Gold Receipts at Mint .....fine oz.	223,035	221,991	246,832
Inspected Slaughtering:			
Cattle and Calves .....no.	172,067	210,544	197,384
Sheep and Lambs .....no.	23,319	18,636	44,174
Hogs .....no.	389,377	494,450	416,102
Cigarettes released .....no.	1,158,183,886	1,199,183,597	1,049,196,846
Cigars released.....no.	18,345,357	17,627,260	18,971,592
Carloadings .....no.	296,000	311,000	282,000
Exports of:			
Copper .....cwt.	281,759	205,416	215,063
Nickel .....cwt.	172,525	197,247	307,037
Zinc .....cwt.	369,576	350,243	379,170
Asbestos .....tons	20,301	18,591	14,210
Cheese .....cwt.	3,035	16,936	2,668
Canned Salmon .....cwt.	7,517	11,289	31,787
Woodpulp .....cwt.	2,549,153	2,726,480	2,421,107
Planks and Boards .....M ft.	141,445	133,198	141,016
Shingles .....squares	157,835	137,660	174,853
Bank Debits .....\$000	6,115,643	6,893,992	5,754,660

(+) According to preliminary calculations, the index of the physical volume of business showed recession from the preceding month.



### Crop Conditions in Prairie Provinces

Based upon conditions at the present time and barring the development of adverse weather and moisture conditions during the critical period between now and the end of July, there are fair prospects of an average crop in western Canada this year. Rainfall since April 1 has been generally below normal but many areas received better-than-average precipitation last fall and as a result the total moisture supply has not been as inadequate as would appear from consideration of growing-season precipitation alone. Pest infestations have not been overly severe to-date, although the extent of sawfly damage remains to be determined.

Scattered rains over the week-end have improved Manitoba's crop prospects but further rainfall is needed to maintain present conditions. Many eastern districts and some areas in the south-west have already suffered to such an extent from drought that complete recovery will not take place even with additional rainfall. Prospects on the Portage Plains are now fairly good and reports from the north-western portion of the province remain generally optimistic.

Crop conditions in Saskatchewan have also been fairly well maintained with the help of welcome rains in many areas of the southern portion of the province. Moisture reserves in general throughout the province are below normal, and timely rains will be required to carry the crop through to maturity. Recent good rains have greatly improved prospects over wide areas surrounding Indian Head, Swift Current, Scott, Rosetown and other points in the province. The Melfort district appears to be suffering most from drought and indications are that yields will be relatively low in this area, regardless of whether additional rainfall is received or not. First crop hay in these districts is very poor. Some severe wireworm damage has occurred in the Swift Current and Weyburn areas, with light to moderate damage between these areas and in other parts of the south-west.

General rains over most of the province during the week-end, with scattered showers during the week, maintained and improved the generally favourable crop conditions in Alberta. Warm weather promoted rapid growth and wheat now averages eight inches in height with 27 per cent in the shot blade. Serious local hail damage occurred in the north and south-central districts. Pastures and live stock are reported to be in good condition.

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### Stocks and Marketings of Wheat and Coarse Grains

Substantial advance was recorded in the movement of wheat from farms in the Prairie Provinces during the week ending June 20, the total being 2,798,000 bushels as compared with 2,044,000 in the preceding week, according to figures issued by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. However, deliveries from western farms for the crop year to June 20 were somewhat lower than in the preceding year, standing at 222,530,000 bushels as compared with 316,890,000.

Amongst the coarse grains, there were heavier farm deliveries in the Prairie Provinces during the week ending June 20 of oats and rye, while barley and flaxseed were moved in lesser volume. Actual deliveries during the week of June 20 were as follows, totals for the preceding week being in brackets: oats, 1,663,053 (1,512,159) bushels; barley, 560,042 (567,824); rye, 13,293 (4,563); flaxseed, 9,304 (14,450).

Visible supply of Canadian wheat in North American positions was reduced by 4,223,000 bushels during the week ending June 20, the total being 50,019,000 bushels as compared with 54,242,000 in the preceding week. Last year's corresponding total was 261,027,000 bushels.

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### Stocks of Canned Fruits and Vegetables

Stocks of canned fruits and vegetables held by canners, wholesale dealers and chain store warehouses on April 1 were lower than on the corresponding date of last year, according to the quarterly survey conducted by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Canned fruit stocks were recorded at 1,209,527 dozen cans as compared with 1,445,065, and canned vegetables 5,075,537 dozen as compared with 6,363,048. The decrease in stocks of canned fruits was 15.7 per cent, and in canned vegetables 20.3 per cent.

Although there was an average decrease in the holdings of canned fruits on April 1, stocks of some varieties were higher than last year. Stocks of canned peaches rose from 344,245 dozen cans to 421,680, plums, gages, etc. from 233,361 dozen to 260,712, pine-



apple from 14,553 dozen to 65,469, and grapefruit from 9,382 dozen to 11,843. Stocks of pears were reduced from 576,212 dozen to 322,116, cherries from 58,737 dozen to 29,595, apricots from 55,640 dozen to 28,619, and apples from 86,244 dozen to 31,921.

Among the canned vegetables, holdings of baked beans recorded a substantial advance from 296,296 dozen cans to 614,656. Stocks of beets rose from 188,001 to 366,564 dozen, carrots from 95,937 to 469,573 dozen, and carrots and peas combined from 21,861 to 51,180 dozen. Holdings of other varieties were lower, as indicated by the following: corn, 736,990 dozen compared with 1,018,976; peas, 1,282,096 (2,028,352) dozen; green or wax beans, 556,953 (740,369) dozen; tomatoes, 738,303 (1,258,772) dozen.

Holdings of jams, jellies, marmalades were lower, but the stocks of pickles and relishes were heavier. Canned soups at 4,721,352 dozen compared with 4,918,624, apple juice 68,530 dozen compared with 526,136, and other fruit juices 202,083 dozen compared with 67,315. Stocks of tomato products were lower, holdings of tomato juice amounting to 828,722 dozen cans as compared with 2,155,291. Stocks of infant foods were heavier, fruits moving up from 520,956 dozen to 887,028, and vegetables from 1,153,531 to 1,213,352 dozen.

#### Flour and Feed Milling Industries

The flour and feed milling industries operated at a high level of production in 1944, the total value of products amounting to \$215,790,000 as compared with \$201,127,000 in the preceding year, according to the annual survey conducted by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Output of wheat flour - the principal product of the industry - was the highest on record, totalling 24,470,610 barrels as compared with 23,986,769 in 1943; the value of flour produced was \$132,607,418 as compared with \$112,345,014, or an average per barrel of \$5.42 compared with \$4.68.

Next in order of importance was chopped grain feed, totalling 1,234,954 tons valued at \$44,607,961 as compared with 1,397,244 tons valued at \$47,251,873. The average value was \$36.12 per ton as compared with \$33.82. Output of bran, shorts, and middlings by the industry amounted to 807,375 tons valued at \$20,382,601 compared with 813,051 valued at \$20,194,730 in the preceding year. Production of oatmeal and rolled oats was recorded at 78,959 tons valued at \$6,115,850 as against 54,036 tons valued at \$3,915,121 in 1943.

The total cost of all materials, including containers, amounted to \$187,116,957 as compared with \$169,488,522 in 1943. Wheat of all grades was by far the largest contributor to this sum with \$128,286,734. Mixed grain for chopping was second at \$22,808,366. The next largest item of expense was that of containers and container materials which accounted for \$12,949,886, while oats occupied fourth position with a total of \$11,781,503.

#### Earnings of Wage-Earners at 1941 Census

Average annual earnings of male wage-earners in all industries in Canada were \$993 during the 12 months ended June 2, 1941, and those of female wage-earners \$490, according to a bulletin just issued by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics giving final figures on the earnings of gainfully employed persons by industry groups and sex, as recorded at the 1941 Census. Male wage-earners totalled 2,117,357 and female wage-earners 699,441, the former being employed an average of 41.31 weeks during the 12 months and the latter an average of 40.67 weeks.

A wage-earner in the census is defined, it may be noted, as a gainfully-occupied person who works for salary, wages, commission, or on a piece-rate basis of payment, whether he be a day labourer or the general manager of a bank. Deductions from pay for such purposes as pension schemes, taxes, war savings certificates and insurance are included in the earnings, but income from pensions, investments, workmen's compensation, relief and other sources of this kind are excluded.

Among industry groups, highest average earnings for males were recorded in finance and insurance at \$1,657 a year. The figure for women in this group was \$751. Lowest annual earnings for males was in agriculture at \$298, in which the average for women was \$233. In connection with these figures, however, it is to be noted that the money value of room and board is not counted in the earnings recorded in the census. Indicative of the seasonal nature of employment in agriculture, the average weeks worked was recorded at 35.42 and 28.97 for men and women, respectively.

Second highest annual earnings for men was \$1,588 in business, in which the average for women was \$758, followed by the electricity, gas and water group at \$1,436 for males



and \$892 for female wage-earners, the highest figure recorded for the latter. In the public services, average earnings of males were \$1,352 and of females \$784, while for professional services the figures were \$1,249 and \$659.

Average earnings in manufacturing industries as a whole were \$1,075 and \$532 for male and female workers, respectively, with the highest average for males in non-ferrous metals at \$1,253 and the highest for females in non-metallic minerals at \$638 a year.

Figures for other interesting groups were: forestry, fishing and trapping, \$522 for males and \$441 for females; mining and quarrying, \$1,215 and \$833; construction, \$737 and \$690; transportation, including communications, \$1,204 and \$755; trade (retail and wholesale), \$1,085 and \$555.

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#### Production and Shipments of Lumber in April

Lumber production in April by 782 sawmills East of the Rockies reporting the month's operations to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics totalled 77,048,000 feet board measure. This figure compares with a revised total of 108,422,000 board measure produced by 893 operators in March. Shipments by 412 operators in April were 98,762,000 board feet as compared with 108,309,000 shipped by 404 operators in March. Stocks on hand reported by 290 mills at the end of April amounted to 272,935,000 board feet compared with 319,904,000 feet reported by 297 mills on the last day of March. Figures for British Columbia are not included in the report owing to the wide difference in operations there from the rest of Canada.

Of the 782 operators making returns for April, 385 reported sawing operations with production of 57,982,000 feet board measure of softwoods and 19,066,000 feet of hardwoods. These figures compare with revised totals of 378 mills sawing in March, and production of 95,525,000 feet of softwoods and 12,897,000 feet of hardwoods. There was an increase in active mills in Quebec, Ontario, and Manitoba, but decreases in the other provinces, especially in Alberta and Saskatchewan where most of the larger mills ceased operations for the season.

Production for the four months ending April, as reported to the Bureau, totalled 371,906,000 feet board measure, while shipments amounted to 385,181,000 feet. Output by provinces in April (March figures in brackets) follows, in thousands: Prince Edward Island, 245 (168); Nova Scotia, 10,172 (13,540); New Brunswick, 9,663 (17,872); Quebec, 30,273 (27,861); Ontario, 17,383 (9,965); Manitoba, 2,252 (3,345); Saskatchewan, 3,342 (13,968); Alberta, 3,718 (21,703).

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#### Concrete Building Blocks and Cement Pipe

Production of concrete building materials by 50 of the principal manufacturers which normally account for 85 per cent of the totals for Canada, included the following items, according to April returns: brick, 1,110,354 pieces; hollow blocks, 774,016 pieces; cinder blocks, 366,858 pieces; and pipe, 6,570 tons. Production during the four months of this year was: concrete brick, 4,096,709 pieces; solid blocks, 5,790; hollow blocks, 2,533,732; cinder blocks, 1,364,441; and pipe, 23,186 tons.

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#### Sales of Paints, Varnishes and Lacquers

Sales of paints, varnishes and lacquers by manufacturers which normally account for 96 per cent of the total Canadian production, amounted to \$5,484,554 in April, compared with \$4,680,798 in the preceding month, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics reports. Sales by these concerns during the four months ended April aggregated \$19,213,571. In April the total sales (exclusive of water paints) accounted for about 52 per cent of the total, industrial sales for 35 per cent, water paints for four per cent, and unclassified sales for nine per cent.

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#### Production, Shipments, Imports and Exports of Nails, Tacks and Staples

Production of iron and steel wire nails in April amounted to 6,276 tons, a figure which exceeded by 322 tons the average output for the first four months of the current year, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics reports. The total for the four month period was 23,815 tons. There were also produced in April, 74 tons of iron and steel cut nails, 223 tons of steel wire staples, and 200 tons of tacks of steel, brass and copper.



Shipments in April totalled 6,322 tons, and in the cumulative period, 23,527 tons. April shipments included 5,873 tons of iron and steel wire nails, 65 tons of iron and steel cut nails, 212 tons of steel wire staples, and 172 tons of steel, brass and copper tacks.

Imports of nails and tacks in April amounted to 35,826 pounds, and exports to 300,800 pounds. Imports for the four-month period were 158,859 pounds and exports, 1,701,000 pounds.

#### Primary Iron and Steel in April

Shipments of primary shapes by Canadian steel mills totalled 248,381 net tons in April compared with 254,015 in March, 224,855 in February, and 243,245 in January, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics reports. The April total included 31,065 tons of semi-finished shapes: 11,214 tons structurals; 19,066 tons plates; 36,166 tons rails; 7,299 tons track materials; 44,667 tons bars; 11,979 tons pipes and tubes; 25,103 tons wire rods; 14,868 tons black sheets; 6,126 tons galvanized sheets; 351 tons tool steel; 8,251 tons castings; and 32,226 tons other shapes.

Of the April shipments, 63,682 tons went direct to railways and railway cars shops; 7,671 tons to pressing, forming and stamping plants; 22,286 to merchant trade products; 14,851 to building construction; 15,181 to the containers industry; 6,858 tons to agricultural equipment; 7,874 to the automotive industry; 7,960 to machinery plants; 4,925 to shipbuilding; 5,403 to mining, lumbering, etc., and 5,930 tons to miscellaneous industries. Wholesalers and warehousing accounted for 24,030 tons, producers( interchange for 47,221 tons, and exports for 14,516 tons.

#### Production of Steel Ingots in May

Production of steel ingots in May, although lower than in the corresponding month of last year, recorded an advance over the total for the preceding month, according to figures issued by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Output for May this year was 251,697 tons as compared with 239,636 tons in April, and 254,529 tons in April, 1945. Production for the first five months of the current year aggregated 1,204,674 tons as compared with 1,265,573 tons in the similar period of 1945, and the daily average was 7,978 tons as compared with 8,381 tons.

#### Production and Shipments of Wire

April production of steel wire fencing totalled 2,473 tons, exceeding the average for the first four months of the year by 260 tons, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Actual output for the cumulative period was 8,854 tons. Tonnage shipped for use in Canada and for export was 3,505 in April, and for the January - April period, 10,790 tons.

Production of steel wire in April amounted to 23,332 tons, and in the four months ended April, 91,400 tons. Output for April included 16,746 tons of plain wire, 5,068 tons of galvanized wire, 372 tons of other coated wire, and 1,146 tons of barbed wire. Tonnage of wire shipped -- for use in Canada and for export -- was 10,440 tons in April, and in the four months, 38,705 tons.

#### Automobile Production in May

Production of motor vehicles in Canada increased during May, totalling 20,022 units as compared with 16,830 units in April and 15,045 units in May 1945, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Total output for the five months ending May was 64,204 units as compared with 71,143 and 65,621 units, respectively, in the corresponding period of 1945 and 1944.

May production consisted of 12,755 passenger cars and 7,267 commercial vehicles. Of these, 7,949 passenger cars and 4,583 commercial units were for sale in Canada, and 4,806 passenger cars and 2,684 commercial vehicles were for export.

Passenger cars accounted for 31,970 of the 64,204 units produced in the months January to May, 22,708 being for sale in Canada and 9,262 for export. Out of the 32,234 commercial vehicles produced in the period, 15,416 or slightly under one-half were for sale in Canada and 16,816 were made for export. Vehicles over two tons and under 2½ tons accounted for 10,894 of the latter.



Production and Consumption of Petroleum Products

Output of refined petroleum products during February amounted to 4,006,161 barrels compared with 3,720,341 barrels in the corresponding month of last year, according to figures issued by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The total for the month included 1,796,157 barrels of motor gasoline, 29,777 barrels of aviation gasoline, 1,123,880 barrels of heavy fuel oils, 506,110 barrels of light fuel oils, 183,136 barrels of kerosene, 42,936 barrels of tractor distillate, 56,295 barrels of naphtha specialties, and 267,871 barrels of other refinery products, such as lubricating oils, asphalt, coke, etc.

Refineries used 4,376,053 barrels of crude oil in February this year, being 10 per cent more than in February, 1945. Receipts of crude during the month totalled 3,990,627 barrels as compared with 3,236,071 last year. February receipts of crude included 3,411,708 barrels of imported oil and 578,559 barrels from Canadian sources. Of the imported oil, 1,756,386 barrels came from the United States compared with 1,556,061 in February last year, 384,412 from Colombia as against 476,256, and 1,270,911 from Venezuela as compared with 492,539. Inventories of crude at refineries at the end of the month amounted to 3,538,709 barrels, being nearly nine per cent more than the amount held on the corresponding date of last year.

The consumption of liquid petroleum fuels, as computed from refinery shipments, imports, exports and changes in marketing inventories totalled 4,039,146 barrels (of 35 Imperial gallons) as against 3,639,876 barrels in February, 1945. Quantities of different fuels consumed were as follows: naphtha specialties, 67,316; aviation gasoline, 39,248 (211,455 in February, 1945); motor gasoline, 1,499,082 (1,276,865); tractor distillate, 12,676 (7,717); kerosene and stove oil, 299,593 (69,072); light fuel oils, 844,441 (732,768, including stove oil); and heavy fuel oil, 1,276,790 (1,341,999). Figures for other refinery products, such as asphalt, lubricating oils, etc., are not compiled separately.

Canal Traffic Reduced in May

Traffic through Canadian and United States locks of the Sault Ste. Marie canals recorded a sharp decline in May, the total being 6,289,793 tons as compared with 15,547,622 tons in the corresponding month of last year, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Principal decline was in downbound iron ore from 11,604,230 tons a year ago to 3,831,137 tons. Upbound soft coal fell from 1,561,200 to 421,874 tons, while upbound oil and gasoline increased from 115,313 to 187,554 tons and hard coal from 27,446 to 78,329 tons.

Freight using the Welland Ship Canal declined to 1,054,069 tons from 1,667,561 tons in May last year. Oats increased by 131,505 tons, but wheat declined by 51,764 tons, soft coal by 591,898 tons, iron ore by 133,709 tons, and sand, gravel, and stone by 16,449 tons. Petroleum and oils increased by 26,177 tons, cement, brick, lime and plaster by 11,062 tons and paper by 8,743 tons.

Freight traffic using the St. Lawrence canals declined to 727,871 tons in May from 965,983 tons in May last year. The large decreases included 314,398 tons of soft coal, 110,738 tons of wheat, 12,634 tons of barley, 9,135 tons of paper and 4,776 tons of rye. Oats increased by 110,402 tons, petroleum and oils by 37,559 tons, gasoline by 9,813 tons, pulpwood by 13,990 tons, hard coal by 15,106 tons and iron ore by 7,675 tons.

Car Loadings on Canadian Railways

Car loadings on Canadian railways for the week ended June 15 declined to 69,208 cars from 69,766 cars for the preceding week and 74,302 cars for the corresponding week last year. The holiday on June 10 was one factor in the decrease. Loadings in the eastern division increased from 47,006 cars last year to 48,373 cars, but in the western division the total declined from 27,296 to 20,835 cars.

Quarterly Bulletin of Agricultural Statistics

Besides review of agricultural conditions and dairying, and average monthly prices of farm produce during the period, the Quarterly Bulletin of Agricultural Statistics for January - March, just issued by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, contains latest figures of acreages, production and values of principal field crops in 1945, for all Canada and by provinces; figures of numbers of live stock and poultry on farms at December

1, 1945; detailed statistics of dairy production and farm income from dairying in 1945, production and domestic disappearance of wool, output of poultry products, fruit production and values by provinces, fur farming operations, sugar refining and stocks, fertilizer production and sales, and tabular summary of the trade of Canada of products of farm origin in 1945.

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Reports Issued Today:

1. Telegraphic Crop Report, Prairie Provinces (10 cents).
  2. Sales of Paints, Varnishes and Lacquers, April (10 cents).
  3. Coal Statistics, 1944 (50 cents).
  4. Quarterly Bulletin of Agricultural Statistics, January - March, 1946 (25 cents).
  5. Car Loadings on Canadian Railways - Weekly (10 cents).
  6. Primary Iron and Steel, April (10 cents).
  7. Stocks of Canned Fruits and Vegetables, April 1 (10 cents).
  8. Flour and Feed Milling Industries, 1944 (25 cents).
  9. Refined Petroleum Products, February (10 cents).
  10. Automobile Production, May (10 cents).
  11. Monthly Report on Steel Ingots, May (10 cents).
  12. Canal Statistics, 1945 (25 cents).
  13. Wire Fencing, April (10 cents).
  14. Nails, Tacks and Staples, April (10 cents).
  15. Steel Wire, April (10 cents).
  16. Earnings of Wage-Earners by Industry Group and Occupation,  
1941 Census (10 cents).
  17. Concrete Building Blocks and Cement Pipe, March (10 cents).
  18. Concrete Building Blocks and Cement Pipe, April (10 cents).
  19. Production, Shipments and Stocks on Hand of Sawmills, April (25 cents).
  20. Summary of Canal Traffic, May (10 cents).
  21. Canadian Grain Statistics - Weekly (10 cents).
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