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Estimates of Crop Acreages

Prairie farmers have seeded 25,178,000 acres to wheat this year as compared with 22,566,000 acres in 1945, according to preliminary figures issued by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. This represents an increase of 12 per cent above last year's figure with all three provinces contributing substantially to the higher acreage.

The area seeded to oats in the Prairie Provinces is estimated at 9,610,000 acres, a decrease of 11 per cent below the 1945 figure, while the barley acreage is down nine per cent, with an area of 6,269,000 acres being seeded to this crop. The flaxseed acreage at 990,000 acres has declined four per cent from last year's level. A substantial gain in flaxseed acreage in Manitoba has been more than offset by lower acreages in Saskatchewan and Alberta. In part, the decrease may be attributed to unfavourable weather at seeding time in certain areas in Saskatchewan and Alberta, where a good deal of flax is normally grown. Both fall and spring rye acreages are higher than last year with the former showing an increase of 14 per cent and the latter nine per cent.

Preliminary acreage estimates of late-sown crops in Canada as derived from reports of crop correspondents show that sugar beet acreages have increased by 28 per cent over last year to a figure of 75,800 acres. Dry beans are up three per cent while buckwheat is down six per cent from last year's level. The acreages seeded to corn and dry peas are practically unchanged, while some reduction is indicated for hay and clover, alfalfa and turnips.

Man-Hours and Hourly Earnings at May 1

There was a further rise in the number of hourly-rated wage-earners reported in manufacturing, but a decline in the aggregates of hours worked and hourly earnings in the week of May 1 as compared with the week of April 1, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics reports. The falling-off in the hours and wages was due, in the main, to the observance of Easter in the pay periods for which data were furnished by many establishments. The weekly average of hours worked fell from 44.4 in the April report to 43.0.

Statistics were compiled from 6,139 manufacturers who employed 722,393 hourly-rated wage-earners at May 1 as compared with 717,116 at the beginning of April. The latest aggregate of hours worked was 31,053,129 as compared with 31,843,174 a month earlier, while the indicated wages declined from \$21,780,921 paid at April 1 to \$21,408,062 paid at May 1. The average hourly rate, however, rose from 68.4 cents at the former date to 68.9 cents, but the reduction in the working time lowered the weekly average earnings from \$30.37 at April 1 to \$29.63.

Average hourly earnings in manufacturing as a whole at May 1 exceeded those indicated at April 1 by half a cent. Standing at 68.9 cents, the May 1 mean was the highest since that of 69.2 cents per hour at September 1 last year; it was, however, less by 1.6 cents than that of 70.5 cents reported at May 1, 1945.

Car Loadings on Canadian Railways

Car loadings on Canadian railways for the week ended July 13 increased to 70,078 cars from 60,623 cars for the previous week which was affected by the holiday on July 1. Loadings for the corresponding week last year amounted to 73,561 cars. Grain loading continued light at 4,088 cars as against 12,310 cars last year, but grain products increased from 2,748 to 3,102 cars. Logs, piling, cordwood increased from 1,048 to 1,629 cars, pulp wood from 3,209 to 4,799 cars, lumber, lath, shingles from 3,939 to 4,531 cars, gasoline, petroleum, oils from 2,976 to 3,575 cars, wood pulp and paper from 3,284 to 3,658 cars, and merchandise (L.C.L.) from 15,199 to 17,704 cars. Ores and concentrates decreased from 2,806 cars last year to 2,265 cars, sugar from 485 to 266 cars, iron and steel (manufactured) from 1,504 to 1,270 cars, and automobiles, trucks and parts from 1,273 to 872 cars.

Canal Traffic in June

Reflecting sharply the effect of the labour dispute in Canadian shipping and also in United States coal mining, freight through the Welland Ship Canal declined in June to 808,861 tons from 1,706,347 tons in the corresponding month of 1945, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics reports. Wheat declined from 344,818 to 95,137 tons, gasoline from 113,774 to 64,841 tons, petroleum and other oils from 190,478 to 143,159 tons, soft coal from 635,972 to 323,645 tons, iron ore from 170,373 to 33,522 tons, and pulpwood from 70,816 to 33,739 tons.

Freight using the St. Lawrence canals was also sharply lower in June, mainly as a result of the labour disputes, totalling only 272,125 tons as compared with 872,351 tons in June last year. Heavy decreases were recorded in all the major commodities handled. Volume of traffic through the Canadian and United States locks of the Sault Ste. Marie canals during June declined to 12,323,451 tons as compared with 15,547,622 tons in June last year, but the downward trend was less marked than in May, when traffic totalled 6,289,793 tons as against 15,547,622 tons in the corresponding month of 1945.

Refined Petroleum Products in March

Output of refined petroleum products in March totalled 4,997,242 barrels compared with 4,257,859 barrels in the corresponding month of last year, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics reports. The total for the month included 2,258,492 barrels of motor gasoline, 16,098 barrels of aviation gasoline, 1,340,154 barrels of heavy fuel oils, 622,243 barrels of light fuel oils, 253,626 barrels of kerosene and stove oil, 58,374 barrels of tractor distillate, 89,077 barrels of naphtha specialties, and 359,178 barrels of other refinery products.

Consumption of liquid petroleum fuels, as computed from refinery shipments, imports, exports and changes in marketing inventories, was as follows in March this year -- all figures being in barrels of 35 Imperial gallons: naphtha specialties, 73,099; aviation gasoline, 33,577; motor gasoline, 2,066,997; tractor distillate, 90,115; kerosene and stove oil, 257,583; light fuel oils, 682,364; and heavy fuel oils, 1,223,804.

According to figures as compiled from customs invoices, the imports in March this year were as follows, all figures being in barrels; crude oil for refining, 3,331,800; kerosene, 47,216; engine distillate, 2,049; fuel oil, ex-warehoused for ships' stores, 18,971; other fuel oils, 168,407; casinghead gasoline, 79,184; other gasoline, 51,071; lubricating oils, 21,778. Exports during the month included: fuel oils, 33,816; gasoline and naphtha, 10,204; and lubricating oils, 975 barrels.

Shipbuilding Industry of Canada in 1944

Excluding government naval dockyards, production from Canadian shipyards amounted to \$329,299,643 in 1944, recording a decline of \$47,261,331 from the high point reached in the preceding year, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics reports. Illustrating the wartime expansion in the Canadian shipbuilding industry, there were 43 establishments included in this group in 1939 with a gross selling value of products at the works of \$11,234,967; successive annual advances were shown in both the number of shipyards and the value of products, and by 1943 there were 87 establishments with products valued at \$376,560,974. In 1944 there were 94 plants, but the value of output was lower than in 1943.

Shipyards on the west coast of Canada accounted for 37 per cent of the total production in 1944, and those of Quebec for 33 per cent. Gross selling values were as follows, by areas, in 1944 with totals for 1943 in brackets: British Columbia and Yukon, \$124,264,384 (\$155,636,546); Quebec, \$109,558,276 (\$130,208,952); Ontario, \$46,818,200 (\$48,636,195); Nova Scotia, \$39,044,263 (\$33,957,019); New Brunswick, \$9,614,520 (\$8,122,263).

Canada's Export Trade in June

Merchandise export trade of Canada in June was valued at \$166,697,000, according to the monthly summary issued by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, showing decreases of 48 per cent from the June 1945 total when outward shipments reached the year's high value and of 15.3 per cent as compared with the preceding month. Exports in June last year were valued at \$322,846,000 and in May this year at \$196,978,000. During the first six months of the current year merchandise exports aggregated \$1,062,774,000 as compared with \$1,718,398,000 in the corresponding period of last year.

Commodity exports to the United States in June declined to \$66,491,342 as compared with \$72,200,139 in May and \$112,278,132 in June last year, the total for the half year being \$396,441,477 as against \$618,192,086 in 1945. Shipments to the United Kingdom dropped still more sharply to \$30,620,682 as compared with \$54,902,155 in May and \$94,634,291 in June 1945, and for the first six months totalled \$266,079,550 as compared with \$578,781,689 in the corresponding period of last year. Exports to British India fell off steeply to \$4,142,767 from \$41,592,910 in June last year when shipments of munitions and other war materials were heavy, while those to China rose from \$205,610 last year to \$4,021,502.

Gains in exports to other British Empire and foreign countries were more numerous than losses. Among the former, shipments to British South Africa were valued at \$6,019,737 as compared with \$3,185,664 in June last year; Bermuda, \$324,185 as against \$170,721; British Guiana, \$565,604 (\$423,877); Barbados, \$576,471 (\$703,357); Jamaica, \$683,627 (\$1,432,522); Trinidad and Tobago, \$1,700,597 (\$1,297,494); Hong Kong, \$694,280 (nil); Newfoundland, \$2,587,985, (\$4,465,362); Australia, \$3,160,313 (\$3,412,465); New Zealand, \$975,367 (\$542,854).

June shipments to European countries showed both sharp gains and losses. Exports to Belgium rose to \$9,502,761 as compared with \$4,637,691 last year, to Italy to \$5,102,838 compared with \$3,638,002, to Switzerland to \$975,587 as against \$355,062, to Norway to \$1,615,605 compared with \$1,170,211, and Yugoslavia to \$1,049,511 from \$224,943; while those to France fell to \$6,349,550 as compared with \$11,504,760, to the Netherlands to \$1,780,789 as against \$2,705,982, and to Greece to \$1,663,905 as compared with \$4,160,100.

Exports to Latin American countries, with one noteworthy exception, were generally higher, the figures for countries of leading values being as follows: Argentina, \$769,072 (\$263,152 in June, 1945); Brazil, \$610,830 (\$1,256,964); Chile, \$345,528 (\$172,398); Colombia, \$807,944 (\$440,280); Cuba, \$410,745 (\$381,608); Mexico, \$927,746 (\$783,339); Peru, \$292,439 (\$97,476); Venezuela, \$791,208 (\$457,165).

Lower values were recorded for June exports in all commodity groups except that of wood, wood products and paper, the largest decreases being shown for the agricultural and vegetable products group and the iron and its products group.

Exports of agricultural and vegetable products amounted to \$37,995,000 as compared with \$99,833,000 in June last year. Wheat shipments were sharply lower at \$15,620,000 as against \$61,347,000 and milled products (mainly wheat flour) eased off to \$9,608,000 from \$12,600,000 and rubber to \$1,744,000 from \$4,356,000. Animals and animal products declined to \$24,419,000 as compared with \$29,182,000 in June, 1945, fish and fishery products rising from \$7,270,000 to \$8,761,000 and meats dropping from \$13,009,000 to \$7,673,000.

Shipments of iron and iron products were valued at \$24,706,000 as against \$68,614,000 in June, 1945, the total for the half-year standing at \$117,186,000 as compared with \$374,415,000 last year. A major factor in the June decline was a drop in vehicles from \$49,414,000 last year to \$14,504,000. Engines and boilers and farm implements and machinery were moderately higher.

Exports of wood, wood products and paper totalled \$43,288,000 as compared with \$41,193,000 a year ago, the total for the half-year standing at \$265,237,000 as compared with \$221,531,000. Unmanufactured wood, including logs, planks and boards, square timber, shingles and pulpwood, was lower at \$10,692,000 as against \$14,442,000, all items except pulpwood showing declines. Shipments of paper, mainly newsprint, were valued at \$22,652,000 as compared with \$16,949,000, repeating closely the gains of previous months.

Output of Leather Footwear in May

Continuing the gains of previous months over last year, production of leather footwear in May amounted to 4,103,104 pairs, an increase of 225,052 pairs over April and of 767,614 pairs over May, 1945, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics reports. For the five months ended May the output of footwear totalled 18,898,064 pairs as compared with 15,957,794 pairs in the corresponding period of last year.

Increases were recorded in May as compared with a year ago in the production of all major classifications of boots and shoes with leather or fabric uppers, output of men's boots and shoes totalling 822,699 pairs as against 733,643 in May, 1945; boys', 154,469 (130,514); youth's, 48,232 (35,174); women's and growing girls', 1,454,073 (1,195,087); misses', 263,422 (198,803); children's, 210,588 (167,825); and babies' and infants', 321,870 pairs (234,416). Production of all kinds of slippers aggregated 661,583 pairs as compared with 537,492 pairs in May last year.

Production of Processed Cheese in 1945

Total value of the products of the Canadian processed cheese industry amounted to \$19,249,001 in 1945, a decrease of 2.1 per cent from the 1944 total of \$19,670,226, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

Production of processed cheese was 33,448,482 pounds as compared with 33,991,109 pounds in 1944, and the value \$9,850,077 as compared with \$10,221,441. The quantity of cheddar cheese used by the industry was one per cent less in 1945 than in the previous year. The drying of egg powder accounted for \$4,207,292 or nearly 45 per cent of the value of other products. The value of sandwich spread, salad dressing, cheese of types other than processed or cheddar, and other products totalled \$5,191,632 as compared with \$2,761,855 in 1944.

June Financing of Motor Vehicle Sales

Finance companies in Canada contracted to finance the purchase of 4,432 new and used motor vehicles for a total amount of \$3,586,736 in June as compared with 5,158 vehicles for \$3,986,897 in May and 5,784 vehicles for \$4,065,515 in April, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. In June last year 2,885 new and used models were financed for \$1,475,273.

The June totals consisted of 2,208 new vehicles which were financed for \$2,630,489 and 2,224 used vehicles financed for \$956,247. The level of new vehicle financing was practically on a par with the preceding two months, the 2,208 units comparing with 2,333 for May and 2,295 for April. The financing of used vehicles, however, was considerably lower, comparing with 2,825 for \$1,284,436 in May and 3,489 for \$1,530,533 in April and accounting for the major part of the decline in June totals from those two months.

New vehicles financed in June consisted of 1,154 passenger models and 1,054 commercial units, while used vehicles comprised 1,652 of the former and 572 commercial types.

During the first half of this year 9,388 new vehicles were financed for \$10,940,539 as compared with 1,677 for \$2,301,169 in the first half of 1945, while 15,306 used vehicles were financed for \$6,431,591 as compared with 12,104 for \$4,752,890. Of this year's new vehicles, 4,408 were passenger cars and 4,980 commercial models.

Traffic on Transit Systems in April

Interurban transit systems reported carrying 6,969,921 passengers in April as compared with 5,005,072 in April 1945, an increase of 39 per cent, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Urban systems reported an increase of 7.2 per cent in passengers carried, the number totalling 130,314,262 as compared with 121,522,730. Interurban systems reported increases in all provinces except Prince Edward Island, Saskatchewan and Alberta, and urban systems showed gains in all except Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia.

Sales and Purchases of Securities Between Canada and Other Countries in May

Net sales of securities by Canada to other countries showed a further decline in May from the high levels of earlier months this year, amounting to \$10.5 million as compared with \$13.0 million in April and \$20.2 million in March, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The May decline was due to smaller sales of Canadian bonds, trading in Canadian and United States stocks continuing heavy and net sales of Canadian stocks to all countries being unusually high at \$3.0 million.

Sales of securities to the United States totalled \$29.4 million in May and purchases from the United States \$16.2 million, the net sales of \$13.2 million comparing with \$39.2 million in February, the month of heaviest sales. Sales of Canadian bonds amounted to \$4.1 million on balance, with net sales of Dominions \$1.9 million and other corporations \$1.1 million. Net sales of Canadian stocks to the United States were high at \$5.4 million, but were partly offset by repurchases of \$2.3 million from the United Kingdom. The remainder of transactions with the United States was composed principally of United States stocks.

Net repurchases of securities from the United Kingdom in May amounted to \$2.6 million; \$2.3 million being repurchases of Canadian stocks, \$0.2 million other corporation bonds, and \$0.1 million municipal bonds. The trade with other countries was small with net purchases of \$0.1 million.

During the first five months of 1946 net sales of securities to all countries amounted to \$96.3 million as compared with \$64.0 million in the corresponding period of 1945. The increase was due chiefly to higher net sales of Canadian bonds, which were \$78.5 million as compared with \$39.2 million in the 1945 period. Net sales of Canadian stocks to all countries were \$3.0 million lower and net sales of United States securities \$3.6 million lower during the five-months' period than in the similar period of last year.

Births, Deaths and Marriages in Third Quarter of 1945

Live births in Canada during the third quarter of 1945 numbered 73,177 (preliminary figures) giving an equivalent annual rate of 24.0 per 1,000 population as compared with 71,458 births and a rate of 23.7 for the third quarter of 1944, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

Deaths totalled 25,442 with a rate of 8.3 per 1,000 population as compared with 26,802 and a rate of 8.9. Deaths under one year of age numbered 3,276 and the infant mortality rate was 45 per 1,000 live births as against 3,945 deaths and a rate of 55 for the corresponding period of 1944.

The natural increase for the quarter was 47,735, a rate of 15.7 per 1,000 population, as against 44,656 and a rate of 14.8 in the third quarter of 1944. There were 34,024 marriages during the quarter as against 32,104 in the similar period of 1944.

Comparative figures for the first nine months of 1945 (figures for the corresponding period of 1944 in parentheses) are as follows; live births, 218,842 (217,356); birth rate, 24.2 (24.2); illegitimate births, 9,863 (9,393); stillbirths, 5,021 (5,105), and rate per 1,000 live births, 22.9 (23.5); deaths, 83,391 (87,469); death rate, 9.2 (9.7); natural increase, 135,451 (129,887); rate of natural increase, 15.0 (14.5); deaths under one year, 11,100 (11,907); and rate per 1,000 live births, 51 (55); maternal deaths, 507 (599), and rate per 1,000 live births, 2.3 (2.8); marriages, 78,545 (76,397); marriage rate, 8.7, (8.5).

Stocks and Marketings of Wheat and Coarse Grains

Stocks of Canadian wheat in store or in transit in North America decreased by 2,633,620 bushels during the week ending July 18, being recorded at 41,024,011 bushels on the latter date as compared with 43,657,631 bushels on July 11, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics reports. On the corresponding date of July 19 last year the visible supply stood at 229,878,903 bushels.

Deliveries of wheat from farms in Western Canada were higher during the week ending July 18, totalling 1,400,939 bushels as compared with 1,233,598 bushels in the preceding week. From the beginning of the present crop year to July 18 marketings of wheat aggregated 231,245,286 bushels as compared with 334,504,977 bushels in the corresponding period of the 1944-45 year.

The quantities of coarse grains delivered from farms in the Prairie Provinces during the week ending July 18, with totals for the preceding week in brackets, were as follows: oats, 942,504 (870,415) bushels; barley, 345,889 (283,608); rye, 4,139 (7,616); flaxseed, 2,821 (2,373) bushels.

Business Situation in June

Productive operations receded in June from the level of the preceding month. The index of the physical volume of business, which had been 184.3 in May, showed slight recession in the month under review. A few industries, including cotton textiles and lumber, showed a marked decline in operations due to the strike situation.

Wholesale prices, according to the weekly computation of industrial materials and Canadian farm products, rose to a higher position in June in continuance of the upward trend in evidence during the first half of the year. Dominion bond prices strengthened following the decline of the two preceding months. Recession was shown in the prices of common stocks and in speculative trading on the stock exchanges. The maximum of recent years in stock prices was reached in April and recession has been shown for two consecutive months. The sum of the four classes of bank deposits was slightly lower at the beginning of the month despite the increase in notice and demand deposits. Dominion and provincial balances were at a lower level than in the preceding month.

Crop Conditions in Canada

Crop conditions remain generally good throughout the Prairie Provinces with Manitoba reporting further improvement during the past week. Dry, hot weather has caused some deterioration, particularly in west-central Saskatchewan and south-eastern Alberta but has promoted growth in other areas where moisture reserves were ample. Average precipitation since April 1 shows a further slight improvement in Manitoba and Saskatchewan and is still fractionally above normal in Alberta. No insect damage of importance has been reported and hail damage has not been widespread.

The weather in British Columbia has turned fair and warm and haying is again under way. Winter cereals are nearing the cutting stage and spring grains are developing rapidly. Potatoes and most tree fruits are very promising but splitting caused a serious reduction in the cherry crop. A very heavy raspberry crop is now being harvested.

Haying is nearing completion in southwestern Ontario and the crop has been taken off in good condition. Cutting of fall wheat is well advanced and has commenced for other spring grains. The hot weather of the past two weeks has adversely affected pastures in much of western, central and eastern Ontario but local showers have provided some relief.

The prolonged drought which has prevailed throughout Quebec for the past several weeks has been relieved in some areas. Hay is 50 to 75 per cent completed but yields appear to be considerably below those of a year ago. Grain crops have started to head and prospects range all the way from poor to good.

Moisture is needed throughout the Maritimes but a recent rain relieved conditions in Prince Edward Island to some extent. Haying is general but yields are below average. Cereals are short in the straw and are now heading out. Corn, however, is promising. The apple crop is developing satisfactorily.

Reports Issued During the Week

1. Artificial Abrasives Industry, 1944 (15 cents).
2. Shipbuilding Industry, 1944 (15 cents).
3. Average Hours Worked and Average Hourly Earnings at Beginning of May (10 cents).
4. Car Loadings on Canadian Railways - Weekly (10 cents).
5. Preliminary Estimate of Crop and Summerfallow Acreages, 1946 (10 cents).
6. Bridge Building and Structural Steel Work Industry, 1944 (25 cents).
7. Refined Petroleum Products, March (20 cents).
8. Summary of Canada's Domestic Exports, June (10 cents).
9. Canada's Domestic Exports by Countries, June (10 cents).
10. Production of Leather Footwear, May (10 cents).
11. The Electrical Apparatus and Supplies Industry, 1944 (25 cents).
12. The Wire and Wire Goods Industry, 1944 (25 cents).
13. The Processed Cheese Industry, 1945 (10 cents).
14. Special Report on Refined Petroleum Products in Canada, 1940-1945 (25 cents).
15. Telegraphic Crop Report, Canada (10 cents).
16. Monthly Financing of Motor Vehicle Sales, June (10 cents).
17. Transit Report, April (10 cents).
18. Births, Deaths and Marriages in Third Quarter of 1945 (25 cents).
19. The Boilers, Tanks, and Plate Work Industry, 1944 (25 cents).
20. The Stone Industry, 1944 (50 cents).
21. Sales and Purchases of Securities Between Canada and Other Countries, May
(10 cents).
22. Trade of Canada, 1945, Volume II, Exports (\$2.00).
23. Canadian Grain Statistics - Weekly (10 cents).

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