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Canal Traffic in July

Traffic through Canadian and United States locks of the Sault Ste. Marie canals during July amounted to 14,986,534 tons as compared with 15,948,747 tons in July last year, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Iron ore declined from 11,677,969 to 11,357,643 tons, and wheat was down sharply from 1,777,038 to 449,434 tons and other grains from 256,897 to 148,615 tons, while soft coal increased from 1,606,228 to 2,261,016 tons, oils and gasoline from 119,435 to 191,144 tons, and stone from 134,209 to 201,436 tons.

Freight using the Welland Ship Canal was also lower in July, amounting to 1,529,871 tons as compared with 1,748,920 tons in July, 1945. The main factor in the decrease was the light movement of wheat, which dropped from 494,664 tons last year to 54,689 tons. Petroleum and other oils declined from 209,804 to 196,277 tons and pulpwood from 97,695 to 82,356 tons. On the other hand, iron ore increased by 123,002 tons, soft coal by 121,548 tons and gasoline by 29,592 tons.

Due mainly to light shipments of wheat and other ores (mostly bauxite), freight traffic through the St. Lawrence canals declined to 893,120 tons as compared with 1,035,521 tons in July last year. Wheat dropped from 326,667 to 78,897 tons and other ores from 63,587 to 350 tons. Gasoline advanced from 36,759 to 65,623 tons, soft coal from 366,563 to 449,315 tons, sand, gravel and stone from 22,780 to 38,140 tons, rye from 7,419 to 16,605 tons, and barley from none in July last year to 9,924 tons.

Car Loadings on Canadian Railways

Railway car loadings in the week ended August 17 rose to 70,841 cars as compared with a revised total of 66,847 cars in the preceding week and 60,670 cars in the corresponding week of last year, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics reports. The lower total last year was due mainly to the V-J holiday, which reduced loadings below normal. The total for the week ended August 10 has been reduced by 1,842 cars from that reported last week, owing to an error on the part of one reporting carrier.

Compared with the revised totals for the previous week, grain loadings in the week ended August 17 increased by 581 cars, grain products by 163 cars, fresh fruits by 174 cars, coal by 105 cars, sand, stone, gravel, etc. by 277 cars, gasoline and petroleum by 172 cars, iron and steel products by 112 cars, wood-pulp and paper by 106 cars, miscellaneous manufactures by 613 cars, and merchandise l.c.l. by 1,286 cars.

Half-Year Production of Leading Minerals

Production of eleven out of sixteen leading Canadian minerals was higher during the first half of this year than in the first six months of 1945, according to the monthly statistical summary issued by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. For the month of June, however, output of only eight was higher.

Minerals with increased output in the half-year were: asbestos, cement, clay products, coal, feldspar, gold, gypsum, lead, silver, lime and salt. Production of copper, nickel, zinc, natural gas and petroleum were lower, the heaviest decreases being in copper and nickel. During June the output of the latter five and of coal, feldspar and salt was lower than in the corresponding month of 1945.

Production of the sixteen minerals in the six months ended June, with figures for the corresponding period of last year in brackets, was as follows: asbestos, 250,217 tons (241,659); cement, 5,185,690 barrels (3,168,266); clay products, \$5,088,744 (\$3,347,206); coal, 9,050,399 tons (8,462,577); copper, 185,829,288 pounds (258,715,286); feldspar, 14,637 tons (12,744); gold, 1,428,245 fine ounces (1,327,704); gypsum, 499,150 tons (214,581); lead, 187,675,556 pounds (164,275,342); lime, 428,759 tons (418,127); natural gas, 26,798,704M. cubic feet (27,217,885); nickel, 90,352,579 pounds (135,799,517); petroleum, 3,870,411 barrels (4,521,811); commercial salt, 156,253 tons (153,894); silver, 6,680,213 fine ounces (6,523,556); zinc, 246,237,098 pounds (274,006,199).

Cheques Cashed Against Individual Accounts in July

Cheques cashed in Canada during July totalled \$5,547 million, showing an increase of 2.4 per cent over the total of \$5,419 million in July last year, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics reports. For the seven months ending July the aggregate was \$40 billion as against \$38 billion for the corresponding months of 1945 and the highest figure ever recorded for the period.

Increases in the amount of cheques cashed were shown in July as compared with July last year in the Maritime Provinces, Quebec and British Columbia, and decreases in Ontario and the Prairie Provinces. Cheques cashed in the Maritimes rose to \$143 million as against \$120 million, a gain of more than 19 per cent, the totals being higher in each of the three clearing centres. In the Province of Quebec the aggregate was \$1,797 million compared with \$1,486 million, cheques cashed in Montreal rising to \$1,595 million from \$1,310 million and in the city of Quebec to \$185 million from \$163 million.

In British Columbia the total was one-fifth higher than in July last year, standing at \$413 million as compared with \$345 million. Marked advances were shown in each of the three clearing centres in the Pacific Coast province, the greatest percentage increase being recorded in Victoria where the total at \$66.4 million was nearly one-half greater. Cheques cashed in Vancouver amounted to \$329 million as against \$285 million last year.

In Ontario twelve of the fourteen centres showed advances over July a year ago, declines being limited to Ottawa and Windsor. The total for Toronto was 21.7 per cent higher at \$1,634 million compared with \$1,343 million, and for Hamilton advanced to \$120 million compared with \$101 million. Cheques cashed in Ottawa were sharply lower at \$285 million compared with \$746 million and in Windsor amounted to \$77 million as against \$83 million. The net result for the Province was a decline of nearly five per cent from \$2,482 million in July a year ago to \$2,361 million.

For the Prairie Provinces the aggregate was \$832 million as compared with \$986 million last year, a decline of 15.7 per cent, although eight of the ten centres showed advances. Cheques cashed in Winnipeg declined to \$430 million as compared with \$622 million and were 11 per cent lower in Regina. In Calgary there was an increase from \$117 million to \$144 million.

Advances were recorded in the aggregate for the seven months in each of the five areas except the Prairie Provinces. The greatest percentage increase was in British Columbia where the total rose about 30 per cent. Cheques cashed in the Maritime Provinces were nearly 10 per cent above the same period last year, in Quebec 10.6 per cent and in Ontario about three per cent. In the Prairie Provinces there was a recession of 7.7 per cent.

Refined Petroleum Products in June

Canadian output of refined petroleum products during June totalled 5,494,195 barrels, slightly below the total of 5,497,296 barrels in June last year, according to the monthly report by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The month's output included 2,492,130 barrels of motor gasoline, 21,724 barrels of aviation gasoline, 1,331,789 barrels of heavy fuel oils, 777,244 barrels of light fuel oils, 178,696 barrels of kerosene and stove oil, 146,966 barrels of tractor distillate, 60,624 barrels of naphtha specialties, and 485,022 barrels of other refinery products.

Refineries in Canada used 5,797,565 barrels of crude oil in June, which was 10 per cent less than in the corresponding month last year. Receipts of crude oil during the month totalled 6,136,545 barrels, consisting of 5,543,996 barrels of imported oil and 592,549 barrels from Canadian sources of supply. Inventories of crude at refineries at the end of June amounted to 4,123,935 barrels, a decrease of 10 per cent from the amount held on the corresponding date last year.

Consumption of liquid petroleum fuels in Canada during June, as computed from refinery shipments, imports, exports and changes in marketing inventories, was as follows (figures in barrels of 35 Imperial gallons): naphtha specialties, 64,764; motor gasoline 3,030,049; tractor distillate, 165,735; kerosene and stove oil, 109,730; light fuel oils, 546,256; and heavy fuel oils, 1,161,942.

July Sales of Department Stores

Sales of Canadian department stores in July were 17 per cent below the level of June but 20 per cent higher than in July last year, according to a preliminary report issued by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The gain of 20 per cent in July over the corresponding month of 1945 compares with an average gain of 19 per cent for the first seven months of the year over the corresponding period of last year. Unadjusted indexes of the dollar values of sales, on the base 1935-1939 = 100, stood at 159.7 for July as against 191.6 for June and 133.2 for July, 1945.

Figures on a regional basis show substantial gains last month over July a year ago in all sections of Canada. Quebec was first in proportion of sales increase with a gain of 23 per cent, Ontario being closely behind with a rise of 24 per cent. Increases of 16 per cent were recorded both in the Prairie Provinces and British Columbia, and a lower gain of 14 per cent in the Maritime Provinces.

An analysis of sales of 18 reporting firms shows increases over July last year in all departments for which separate figures are available. Sales of household appliances and electrical supplies, and of radios, musical instruments and supplies, again registered outstanding gains of 104 and 150 per cent respectively over the low levels of 1945. Sales of hardware and kitchen utensils rose nearly 39 per cent, home furnishings over 28 per cent, smallwares 22 per cent, furniture 19 per cent, and women's and children's wear an average of 16 per cent.

Financing of Motor Vehicle Sales in July

Financing of motor vehicle sales in July was close to the same level as in June, finance companies contracting to finance the purchase of 4,457 new and used models for a total amount of \$3,789,198 as compared with 4,432 vehicles for \$3,586,736 in June, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The comparable figures for July last year are 2,572 vehicles financed for \$1,330,883.

The July total consisted of 2,350 new vehicles financed for \$2,810,231 and 2,107 used vehicles financed for \$978,967. The level of new vehicle financing has remained comparatively constant during recent months, figures for the months April to July deviating from each other by less than 10 per cent. Financing of used vehicles, on the other hand, has shown a downward trend, the July figure of 2,107 comparing with 2,224 in June, 2,825 in May and 3,489 in April, the high month this year.

Cumulative totals for the first seven months of 1946 show 11,738 new motor vehicles financed for \$13,750,770 as compared with 2,087 new vehicles financed for \$2,829,797 in the corresponding period of 1945. The number of used vehicles financed in the period was 17,413 and the amount of financing \$7,410,558 as compared with 14,268 and \$5,555,145 last year.

New vehicles financed in July comprised 1,043 passenger models and 1,307 commercial vehicles, while 1,488 of the used vehicles financed were passenger models and 619 commercial vehicles.

Production of Leather Footwear in June

Production of leather footwear in Canada during June amounted to 3,655,444 pairs, a decrease of 447,600 pairs from the preceding month but an increase of 368,446 pairs over June, 1945, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics reports. For the six months ended June, output of footwear totalled 22,553,508 pairs as compared with 19,224,792 pairs in the corresponding period of last year.

Of the June total, boots and shoes with leather or fabric uppers accounted for 2,911,207 pairs, with output of men's shoes totalling 736,223 pairs as compared with 692,248 pairs in June, 1945; boys', 143,742 (125,541); youths', 44,330 (36,906); women's and growing girls', 1,280,130 (1,191,649); misses', 238,501 (221,645); children's, 187,559 (178,697); babies' and infants', 274,516 (227,243). Slippers of all kinds accounted for 417,998 pairs of the remainder of June production.

Record Tobacco Crop in Prospect

With continued favourable weather and an open fall, the tobacco crop this year will be the largest ever produced in Canada, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics states in its first report on the 1946 commercial crop of leaf tobacco. The current estimate of the crop is 109,918,000 pounds, which is 2,214,600 pounds greater than the previous record in 1939 and 19 per cent above the 1945 crop of 92,345,200 pounds.

The tobacco acreage to be harvested this season is estimated at 114,096 acres or 22 per cent larger than the 93,145 acres harvested last year, but the average yield is down from 991 pounds per acre to an estimated 963 pounds.

This year's increase in acreage is largely due to larger planting of flue-cured tobacco, the total acreage of which is currently estimated at 96,146 acres, compared with 77,068 acres last season. Production of flue-cured tobacco is expected to reach 93,168,000 pounds or 17,815,000 pounds more than was harvested in 1945.

Stocks and Marketings of Wheat and Coarse Grains

Stocks of Canadian wheat in store or in transit in North America on August 22, totalled 39,609,450 bushels, an increase of 1,632,348 bushels over the total a week earlier, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics reports. The total at the corresponding date of last year was 199,568,281 bushels.

Deliveries of wheat from farms in Western Canada during the week ended August 22 increased to 4,632,796 bushels as compared with 2,364,945 bushels in the preceding week, bringing the total since August 1 to 8,417,184 bushels.

The following quantities of coarse grains were also delivered from farms in the Prairie Provinces during the week ended August 22 (figures for the preceding week in brackets): oats, 2,444,679 bushels (1,422,848); barley, 2,066,908 (1,109,170); rye, 203,435 (294,244); flaxseed, 75,175 (59,682) bushels.

Feed Grains Situation in Canada

No substantial change in the supply of coarse grains for the 1946-47 crop season appears at present to be in prospect, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics reports in its quarterly review of the coarse grains situation. Present indications, however, are that requirements may be somewhat less than they were a year ago. The somewhat tight feed grain situation which has prevailed in Canada for several months is expected to ease considerably within the next few weeks when the new crops of oats and barley become available for feeding purposes.

Reports on the acreages seeded to field crops in the Prairie Provinces this year indicate that oats and barley have been sacrificed for the sake of increased wheat acreages. The area devoted to wheat is 12 per cent above that of a year ago while the acreages of oats and barley are lower by 11 and 9 per cent respectively, bringing the oat acreage to its lowest level since 1942 and the barley acreage to its lowest since 1941. Considered in the light of the recommendations of the Dominion-Provincial Conference in Ottawa last December, coarse grain acreages have failed to reach their suggested goals. Oats in the Prairie Provinces are about 5 per cent below acreage recommendations and barley acreage nearly 17 per cent short.

Crop conditions for the coarse grains, as of July 31, were considerably better than at the same date last year, but in view of indicated acreage reductions for oats and barley it does not appear that crop conditions were sufficiently improved to warrant an estimated production of these crops significantly different from that of 1945.

Both fall and spring rye acreages showed increases this year and the production of fall rye is substantially above that of a year ago. Unfavourable weather in the fall of 1945 reduced Ontario's acreage of winter wheat - much of which is fed on farms where grown - and the resultant outturn totalled 16.1 million bushels as against 20.1 million last year. Coarse grains promise well in Ontario, but prospects appear somewhat less favourable in Quebec and the Maritimes.

Lumber Production and Shipments in June

Production of lumber in June by sawmills east of the Rockies, according to returns received by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics from 719 sawmill operators, amounted to 211,483,000 feet board measure, an increase of 30.7 per cent over the revised total of 169,423,000 feet board measure reported for the previous month.

Of the operators making returns for June, 487 reported sawing with production of 177,135,000 feet board measure of softwoods and 34,348,000 feet of hardwoods. These figures compare with revised totals of 513 mills sawing in May and production of 135,376,000 feet of softwoods and 34,047,000 feet of hardwoods. The number of active mills increased in June in all provinces except Prince Edward Island and Alberta.

Shipments of lumber during June, reported by 553 operators, totalled 154,835,000 feet as compared with shipments of 143,143,000 feet in May, reported by 504 operators. Stocks on hand at the end of June, reported by 383 mills, amounted to 353,342,000 feet as compared with a revised figure of 313,650,000 feet at the end of May, showing an increase of nearly 13 per cent.

Production for the six months ended June east of the Rockies, as reported so far to the Bureau, aggregated 787,628,000 feet board measure and shipments amounted to 716,599,000 feet board measure. By provinces, the half-year output, in thousands of feet board measure, was as follows: Prince Edward Island, 1,547; Nova Scotia, 88,118; New Brunswick, 89,367; Quebec, 260,408; Ontario, 175,333; Manitoba, 12,153; Saskatchewan, 54,972; Alberta, 98,730.

Building Permits Issued in July

Building permits issued in July by 175 municipalities which have reported for that month to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics had a total value of \$33,107,226, recording an increase over the revised June total of \$31,172,041 reported by 189 municipalities and exceeding by 66 per cent the total of \$19,939,299 for July last year in the 204 Canadian municipalities issuing permits.

Permits granted during the first seven months this year, as reported to date, had an aggregate value of \$239,839,334, showing an advance of 138 per cent over the final aggregate of \$100,612,550 in the corresponding period of 1945.

Permits were issued in July for new construction valued at \$25,901,323 and for additions, alterations and repairs at \$7,205,903. New housing units represented in the month's permits numbered 3,529, of which 3,280 were new buildings and 249 conversions. In July last year, 3,028 permits were issued for housing units, 2,821 being for new buildings and 207 for conversions. The total value of new residential buildings, additions and repairs, was \$15,470,089 in July this year as compared with \$14,043,332 in July a year ago.

During the first seven months this year permits were granted for the construction of 28,453 new dwelling units as compared with 15,617 in the like period of 1945. This year's permits comprised 26,138 for new buildings and 2,315 for conversions. The aggregate value of new residential buildings, additions and repairs in the seven months was \$122,486,708 as against \$64,204,359 last year.

Copper and Nickel Output in June

Production of new copper in all forms during June amounted to 30,885,633 pounds as compared with 30,993,228 pounds in May and 44,379,551 pounds in June last year, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics reports. Aggregate output for the half-year was 185,829,288 pounds as against 258,715,286 pounds in the first six months of 1945.

Exports of copper ore, concentrates and matte for the six months ended June amounted to 971,082 pounds valued at \$13,872,600 and of copper ingots, bars, slabs and billets to 113,546,800 pounds valued at \$14,580,248.

Output of nickel in all forms during June was recorded at 15,188,844 pounds as compared with 14,733,775 pounds in the preceding month and 22,644,417 pounds in June, 1945. Production for the first six months this year declined to 90,352,579 pounds as compared with 135,799,577 pounds in the first half of last year. Half-year exports amounted to 102,376,100 pounds valued at \$26,331,252.

Motion Picture Theatres Made New Records in 1945

Both attendance figures and box-office receipts of motion picture theatres in Canada reached an all-time high in 1945 according to the annual survey of motion picture houses by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

Including 24 opened and eight re-opened during the year, there were 1323 theatres in operation last year, with paid admissions totalling 215,573,267, an increase of nearly four per cent over the previous high total of 208,167,180 in 1944. Box-office receipts at these theatres amounted to \$69,485,732, from which Federal and Provincial Governments collected \$14,055,021 in amusement taxes, leaving net receipts of \$55,430,711 as compared with \$53,173,325 the previous year.

In addition to these theatres, there were 167 itinerant exhibitors operating in 1945, and these reported net receipts of over \$360,000, collected \$93,195 in amusement taxes, and had 1,581,303 admissions.

Including theatres and itinerant operators, the per capita expenditure on motion picture entertainment in Canada was \$5.77 in 1945 as compared with \$5.61 in 1944 and 1943. By provinces, the highest per capita expenditure was \$8.15 for British Columbia, followed by \$7.16 for Ontario, \$6.56 for Nova Scotia, \$5.34 for Alberta, \$5.13 for Manitoba, \$4.76 for New Brunswick, \$4.36 for Quebec, \$3.83 for Saskatchewan, and \$3.31 for Prince Edward Island.

Index Numbers of Wholesale Prices

Continuing its uninterrupted advance of the previous six months, the general index number of wholesale commodity prices, on the base 1926 equals 100, compiled by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, rose to 109.5 in July from 109.1 in June. The standing for July this year compares with 104.6 in July, 1945. Three of the eight sub-group indexes included in the general index recorded advances in July, one was unchanged, and the remaining four were lower. Largest increases were 2.4 points to 89.3 for the non-ferrous metals index and 1.6 points to 115.7 for that of animal products. The vegetable products index moved up 0.5 points to 99.2 and that of textile products was unchanged at 98.2. The wood products index declined 0.6 points to 130.5, and the indexes for iron products, non-metallic minerals and chemical products each eased off 0.1 points. These declines for the most part reflected the revaluation of the Canadian dollar in terms of United States funds.

Among other wholesale price index numbers compiled by the Bureau, there were increases in July over June in the index for consumers' goods from 101.3 to 102.0; raw and partly manufactured goods, from 109.7 to 110.2; fully and chiefly manufactured goods, 98.5 to 98.8; Canadian farm products, 112.7 to 113.8; and eighteen sensitive materials, 91.5 to 91.6; while decreases were recorded for producers' goods, from 106.2 to 106; building materials, 134.2 to 133.5; industrial materials, 103.3 to 103.0; and twelve stable materials, 124.0 to 123.0.

Births, Deaths and Marriages in June

Births and marriages showed substantial increases in June over June last year 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 registered numbered 13,479 as compared with 11,913 in June, 1945, an increase of 13 per cent, and marriages totalled 8,819 as against 7,319, a gain of 20 per cent. Deaths numbered 4,572, a decrease of 4 per cent from the figure of 4,738 for June last year.

Traffic on Railways in May

Revenue freight loaded at Canadian stations and received from foreign connections during May declined to 10,485,494 tons as compared with 10,745,045 in April and 13,067,067 tons in May, 1945, according to the monthly traffic report issued by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Compared with May last year, loadings declined by 1,184,688 tons or 13.1 per cent, imports by 376,495 tons or 24 per cent, and freight between foreign points by 1,020,390 tons or 42.2 per cent.

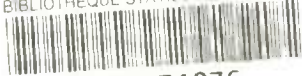
The declines in May from the previous year were largest in wheat, oats, coke, other ores and concentrates, automobilbes and automobile parts, and miscellaneous manufactured goods. Traffic was heavier in crushed stone, sand and gravel, cement, newsprint paper,

fertilizers and l.c.l. merchandise.

During the first five months of the year revenue freight loadings, receipts from foreign connections and through foreign traffic totalled 54,446,947 tons as against 60,-423,324 tons in the corresponding 1945 period.

Reports Issued During the Week.

1. Summary of Canal Traffic, July (10 cents).
 2. Car Loadings on Canadian Railways - Weekly (10 cents).
 3. Refined Petroleum Products, June (20 cents).
 4. Production of Canada's Leading Minerals, June (10 cents).
 5. Canadian Coarse Grains, Quarterly Review (25 cents).
 6. Cheques Cashed and Money Supply, July (10 cents).
 7. Tobacco Crop Report (10 cents).
 8. Monthly Review of Business Statistics, July (10 cents).
 9. Preliminary Report on Department Store Sales, July (10 cents).
 10. Financing of Motor Vehicle Sales, July (10 cents).
 11. Births, Deaths and Marriages, June (10 cents).
 12. Production of Leather Footwear, June (10 cents).
 13. Production, Shipments and Stocks on Hand of Sawmills, June (25 cents).
 14. Trade of Canada: Exports, Canadian and Foreign Produce,
July and Seven Months Ended July, 1946 (25 cents).
 15. Building Permits, July (10 cents).
 16. Copper and Nickel Production, June (10 cents).
 17. Motion Picture Theatres in Canada, 1945 (25 cents).
 18. Canadian Grain Statistics - Weekly (10 cents).
 19. Monthly Traffic Report of Railways of Canada, May (10 cents).
 20. Prices and Price Indexes, July (10 cents).
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