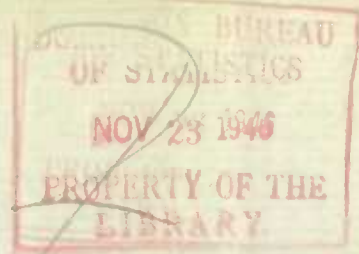


WEEKLY BULLETIN

Dominion Bureau of Statistics

Department of Trade and Commerce



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Marked Increase in Production
of Steel Ingots in October

Production of steel ingots in Canadian steel mills moved up sharply in October, reflecting the re-call of employees following the termination of the strike early in the month, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Operations began at Hamilton and Sault Ste. Marie by mid-October, while plants at Sydney were in operation by the end of the month.

Production of steel ingots in October was recorded at 117,760 net tons, rising sharply over the average rate of output of 77,035 net tons for August-September. October production, although exceeding the average for September and August, was considerably below earlier months of the year, and the total for the ten months ended October fell to 1,805,381 net tons from 2,333,499 in the same period of 1945.

On a daily basis, October production of steel ingots amounted to 3,799 net tons, comparing with an August-September daily average of 2,523 tons, and a similar average of 7,750 tons for the January-June period. So far this year, production on a daily basis averaged 5,939 net tons, compared with 7,676 in the ten months ended October, 1945. For the full year 1945 daily average output was 7,518 net tons.

Stocks and Marketings of
Wheat and Coarse Grains

Visible supplies of Canadian wheat in store or in transit in North America at midnight on November 14 were recorded at 160,649,744 bushels, showing an increase of 5,784,070 bushels over the total for November 7, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics reports. Current stocks, however, were not so heavy as those held a year ago, the total then amounting to 217,088,621 bushels.

Movement of wheat from farms in the Prairie Provinces was lighter during the week ending November 14, the total being 12,430,142 bushels against 14,967,353 in the preceding week. The following quantities of coarse grains also were delivered during the week, totals for the week of November 7 being in brackets: oats, 3,105,143 (3,441,424) bushels; barley, 1,413,891 (1,678,933); rye, 157,886 (171,125); flaxseed, 331,733 (313,759).

Index Numbers of Farm Prices
of Agricultural Products

Prices received by Canadian farmers for agricultural products at September 15 averaged higher than at the corresponding date in 1945, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The index number of prices received for all products, on the base 1935-39=100, stood at 184.8, or 9.1 points above last year's September 15 index which stood at 175.7. On August 15 the index number of prices received from Canadian farmers was 187.2, or 8.8 points above August, 1945.

By provinces considerable variation exists in comparison with September last year. In Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick and British Columbia the index numbers are lower than a year ago due to marked declines in prices received for potatoes and fruits. Substantial increases over last year are recorded in the index numbers for Quebec, Ontario and the three Prairie Provinces, while the index for Nova Scotia shows only a slight increase. These increases are due principally to higher prices for grains, live stock, dairy products and poultry and eggs.

The prices used in computing the index are, as closely as can be determined, the prices which were actually received by farmers. Thus the storage, transportation, processing and handling charges which are not actually received by farmers are not included. On the other hand, subsidies, bonuses and premiums, which can be attributed to specific products, are all included to date as well as equalization payments on oats and barley, and payments on wheat participation certificates insofar as they are available.

Argentine Corn Again Being Imported into Canada

Reflecting improvement in shipping facilities, Argentine corn again is being imported into Canada in large quantities, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. September imports from Argentina at 622,000 -- by far the largest so far this year -- were almost double those shown for August. Nine-month imports from that country were 1,121,000 bushels. First post-war shipments were received from Argentina in March this year -- the first since 1941 when sea warfare and scarcity of shipping interrupted the trade.

During the war years the United States was the only external source of supply for Canada's corn requirements, and in the nine months ended September this year supplied 1,649,000 bushels as compared with 1,414,000 in the similar period of last year. Imports from the United States in September were 142,000 bushels as compared with 574,000 in August. Before the war, Argentina, British South Africa and the United States were the "big three" insofar as Canada's outside sources of corn supply were concerned.

Heavier imports of corn from abroad are reflected in Canadian elevator stocks, which on November 7 included 708,000 bushels from Argentina and 162,000 from the United States. At the same date last year stocks of United States corn were negligible -- 892 bushels. November 7 stocks of Argentine corn were located at Montreal, Toronto and Halifax, while the United States corn was stored at Sarnia, Walkerville, and Montreal.

Population of the Province of Manitoba

Population of the Province of Manitoba has shown a net decrease of approximately 11,000 during the past five years, according to preliminary counts of quinquennial census returns made public by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The advance total for 1946 stands at 718,699 as compared with 729,744 in 1941. There was, however, an increase of about 7,500 over the 1936 total of 711,216.

There was a general upward trend in the population of larger urban centres in 1946. Population of Winnipeg rose from 221,960 in 1941 to 224,091 in 1946, St. Boniface from 18,157 to 21,320, and of Portage la Prairie from 7,187 to 7,545. Brandon's population, on the other hand, fell from 17,383 to 17,147, that of Dauphin from 4,662 to 4,596, and of The Pas from 3,181 to 3,056.

Transcona's population recorded an increase during the intercensal period, rising from 5,495 in 1941 to 6,016, that of Souris from 1,346 to 1,504, Selkirk from 4,915 to 5,370, Neepawa from 2,292 to 2,452, and of Minnedosa from 1,636 to 1,828. Population of Virden fell from 1,619 in 1941 to 1,575.

Car Loadings on Canadian Railways

Car loadings on Canadian railways for the week of November 9 totalled 94,806 cars, an increase of 948 cars over the previous week, and 9,502 cars over the corresponding week last year, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Loadings in nearly all classes of freight were either at the same level or better than a year ago. Increases were largest in fresh fruits, ores and concentrates, sand and other building materials, lumber, gasoline and petroleum products, and l.c.l. merchandise. The cumulative total for the 45 weeks ended November 9 stood at 3,170,810 cars compared with 3,144,802 cars for the same period of 1945.

Sales of Manufactured and Natural Gas

Sales of manufactured gas by distributing companies in September totalled 1,809,318 M cubic feet compared with 1,728,509 M in the corresponding month of last year, and the total for the nine months ended September was 17,921,020 M cubic feet compared with 17,403,646 M in the same period of 1945, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

September sales of natural gas were recorded at 1,592,857 M cubic feet against 1,638,577 M in September last year. Quantity sold during the first nine months of the current year was 23,339,430 M cubic feet as compared with 24,268,681 M in the corresponding period of last year.

Retail Sales Trends in 1945

Sales in Canadian retail stores were 8.5 per cent higher in 1945 than in 1944, according to the composite index of sales for 14 retail trades compiled by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Indicative of the sharp expansion in sales since the outbreak of war, the average monthly index for last year was 87.2 per cent above the average for the base period, 1935 to 1939, and 40 per cent above that for 1941, the last census year.

The five economic divisions of the country for which separate results are compiled registered sales gains in 1945 which varied within narrow limits of the national sales increase of 8.5 per cent. British Columbia and Ontario had slightly larger gains than those of the other areas, while in the Maritime and Prairie Provinces the sales increases were slightly below the all-Canada average. The rate of increase for Quebec was the same as that reported for the country as a whole.

Higher sales were attained by all trades in 1945 and the average increase of 8.5 per cent over 1944 was equalled or exceeded by ten of the 14 kinds of business. Only in the household and personal effects group, however, was the increase substantially larger than the average gain. Increasing supplies of items of metallic content, together with greater activity in the building trades, enabled hardware merchants to extend their margin of gain over 1944 to 17 per cent. Jewellery stores ranked second among the various trades with a 15 per cent rise. Radio and electric stores and furniture stores had sales increases of 14 and 13 per cent, respectively.

Increases over 1944 amounted to 11 per cent for shoe stores, department stores and family clothing stores. Sales of men's wear stores were up ten per cent, while increases of nine per cent occurred in sales of variety stores and ladies' apparel shops. Country general stores, food stores and drug stores had almost identical gains of between six and seven per cent. Lowest among the increases was that recorded by restaurants with a gain of four per cent.

Increased Production of Bicycles

Transportation facilities in most Canadian urban centres have been taxed to the limit during the past few years, but the solution to the problem was not especially difficult for a great number of Canadians. Some, anxious to avoid and relieve the congestion of rush-hour traffic, placed more reliance on "shanks' mare", while others, employing a further form of self-propulsion, used bicycles.

Statistics of annual output, as compiled by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, indicate a greater usage of bicycles in Canada. In 1945, the latest year for which complete data are available, no fewer than 74,000 bicycles were manufactured in Canada, as compared with 66,000 in the preceding year, and 101,000 in 1941. Average annual output during the five years, 1935-39, was 56,000.

In addition, 3,316 bicycles were imported in 1945, of which 2,546 came from the United Kingdom, and 770 from the United States. One hundred and eighty-six Canadian-made bicycles were exported during the year.

Traffic Report of Railways in August

Revenue freight loaded at stations in Canada and received from foreign connections totalled 11,626,694 tons in August compared with 11,108,312 tons in July and 12,667,975 in August 1945, according to figures issued by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The decline from last year was more than accounted for a drop in wheat of 1,427,263 tons. Moderate increases in tonnage were recorded in other grains, coal, and forest products.

Births, Deaths and Marriages in September

Births registered in cities, towns and villages of Canada having a population of 10,000 and over numbered 14,218 in September, deaths 4,504 and marriages 7,869 as compared with 11,259 births, 4,551 deaths and 6,081 marriages in September last year. There were increases of 26 per cent in births, 29 per cent in marriages, and a decrease of one per cent in deaths.

Production of Leather Footwear in September

Production of leather footwear in September amounted to 3,489,258 pairs as compared with 3,126,099 pairs in the corresponding month of last year, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. September output was lower than in August when 3,729,059 pairs were made. Aggregate for the first nine months of the current year was 32,762,466 pairs compared with 28,318,296 in the similar period of 1945.

Production of Concrete Building Materials

Production of concrete building blocks was maintained at a high level in September, according to returns received by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics from principal manufacturers which normally account for about 85 per cent of the total for Canada. Output was recorded at 1,794,800 pieces compared with 1,757,200 in August, and 1,966,700 in July.

September production of concrete bricks, at 669,600 pieces, compares with 624,600 in August and 1,069,000 in July, while the output of cement drain pipe, sewer pipe, water pipe and culvert tile was 8,222 tons against 8,682 tons in August, and 8,762 tons in July.

Passengers Carried by Urban and Inter-urban Transportation Companies

Urban traffic of motor buses and electric railways increased slightly in July over the previous year but was lower than in June, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Passengers totalled 118,263,452 compared with 120,824,885 in the preceding month and 113,897,044 in the same month of 1945. The proportion of the total traffic carried by electric cars declined to 70 per cent in July from 71 per cent in June. Inter-urban traffic showed a greater proportionate growth than urban traffic. Passengers numbered 9,497,243 against 8,346,478 in June and 8,486,742 in July, 1945. Over 75 per cent of this traffic was carried by motor bus.

Reports Issued During the Week

1. Births, Deaths and Marriages, September (10 cents).
 2. Transit Report, June (10 cents).
 3. Transit Report, July (10 cents).
 4. Sales of Manufactured and Natural Gas, September (10 cents).
 5. Production of Leather Footwear, September (10 cents).
 6. Concrete Building Blocks and Cement Pipe, September (10 cents).
 7. Summary of Monthly Indexes of Retail Sales, 1941-1945 (25 cents).
 8. Cordage, Rope and Twine Industry, 1945 (25 cents).
 9. Index Numbers of Farm Prices of Agricultural Products, September (10 cents).
 10. Canadian Grain Statistics - Weekly (10 cents).
 11. Population of Manitoba, 1946 (10 cents).
 12. Car Loadings on Canadian Railways - Weekly (10 cents).
 13. Canadian Grain Statistics - Weekly (10 cents).
 14. Traffic Report of Railways, August (10 cents).
 15. Bicycle Manufacturing Industry, 1945 (25 cents).
 16. Steel Ingots, October (10 cents).
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