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Canada's Merchandise Export Trade in January

Canada's merchandise export trade was maintained at a high level in January, being valued at \$208,600,000 as compared with \$189,100,000 in the corresponding month of last year, an increase of 10 per cent, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The month's aggregate was about \$3,300,000 under the December trade, but exceeded the monthly average for 1946 by \$15,900,000.

Most substantial gain was in exports of the wood, wood products and paper group, which rose from \$42,300,000 in January last year to \$58,900,000. Increases were shown for all the principal items, with newsprint paper, planks and boards, and wood pulp, accounting for the major part of the rise.

With continued heavy volume of wheat and flour exports, and substantial increases in the exports of fruits, grains other than wheat, rubber and products, and seeds, exports of agricultural and vegetable products rose from \$48,155,000 in January 1946 to \$56,932,000. Wheat exports, valued at \$22,770,000, were only slightly under January last year when the value was \$23,655,000.

Exports in the animals and animal products group were valued at \$28,509,000, a decline of \$6,605,000, mainly reflecting decreases in the export of furs and products, meats other than bacon and hams, cheese and eggs. Fish and fishery products rose from \$6,729,000 to \$7,554,000, leather and leather products from \$1,103,000 to \$1,883,000, and bacon and hams from \$4,575,000 to \$4,693,000.

Increases were recorded in the exports of automobiles and parts, and industrial machinery, but rolling-mill products, locomotives and parts, railway cars and parts, and farm implements were lower. The iron products group total, however, was higher at \$21,425,000 against \$17,928,000 a year ago.

In the non-ferrous metal classification there were substantial gains in aluminum, lead, nickel, precious metals (except gold), and zinc, and decreases in copper and electrical apparatus, the aggregate for the group rising from \$16,550,000 to \$22,454,000.

Mainly due to advances in asbestos and artificial crude abrasives, exports of non-metallics rose from \$3,662,000 to \$5,470,000. Chemicals and allied products increased from \$5,530,000 to \$6,671,000, while fibres, textiles and textile products fell from \$5,078,000 to \$3,266,000.

The United States was the principal purchaser of Canadian merchandise in January, exports to that country aggregating \$79,453,000 compared with \$62,323,000 in January, 1946. The United Kingdom was next with purchases totalling \$50,465,000 against \$51,148,000. France was third with a total of \$7,441,000 against \$4,291,000, followed by the Union of South Africa at \$6,174,000 compared with \$3,750,000, and Argentina with \$5,189,000 against \$698,000.

British Empire countries as a whole took \$78,900,000 worth of Canadian goods in January, of which \$51,600,000 went to the United Kingdom and British possessions in Europe, \$11,000,000 to British possessions in America, \$7,100,000 to those in Africa, \$3,900,000 in Asia, and \$5,300,000 in Oceania.

Shipments to all foreign countries aggregated \$129,700,000 against \$113,400,000 a year ago. Of the January 1947 total, the United States and its possessions accounted for \$79,700,000, Latin America \$15,100,000, Europe \$23,200,000; and other foreign countries, \$11,700,000. Exports to the United States and possessions were up by \$17,000,000, and to Latin America by \$7,100,000, while exports were \$13,300,000 lower to European countries and \$5,500,000 higher to the remaining foreign countries.

Births, Deaths and Marriages

Registrations of births in cities, towns and villages of Canada with a population of 10,000 and over recorded a sharp increase in January, totalling 14,820 as compared with 11,677 in the corresponding month of last year, a gain of 27 per cent, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. During the month, deaths fell four per cent and marriages three per cent.

Indexes of Retail Sales in January

Dollar sales of Canadian retail merchants were 13 per cent higher in January, 1947 than in January, 1946, a margin of increase which corresponds closely with the average gain in trading which took place throughout 1946. January sales were 36 per cent below the peak volume recorded in December, but this decrease was not usually acute. In fact, the index adjusted for seasonal variations rose to 220.1 in January from 212.4 in December. Unadjusted indexes (on the base, average for 1935-1939=100) stood at 181.1 for January, 1947, 160.0 for January, 1946 and 282.2 for December, 1946.

January "clearance sales" made their re-appearance as a feature of merchandising this year after a long absence. There were a number of reasons for this development. Largely it resulted from efforts of retailers to liquidate excess and slow-moving stocks. But it was also prompted to some extent by adverse predictions, originating from various sources and widely publicized, regarding prospects for a continuation of the existing high level of consumer purchasing. Among the more prominent trades employing "clearance sales" effectively in January were ladies' wear shops and department stores.

Women's apparel shops recorded the largest increase of any trade during the month under review. Sales were up 26 per cent above January a year ago. Activity in family clothing stores was also pronounced in January and sales for that kind of business rose 20 per cent over January of last year. Sales of footwear, which gained momentum in the late months of 1946, extended their increases still further in January when sales were 22 per cent above January a year ago.

Department stores maintained the sales expansion rate which they have exhibited over the past several months, January sales being 20 per cent ahead of those for January a year ago. A 33 per cent increase for the departmental firms in Quebec province was outstanding. Sales of country general stores have been increasing at a slow but steady rate in recent months and showed advancement of eight per cent in January. Weather is an influential factor and the severity of the winter this year may account for the relatively small gains which occurred in some sections of the country.

The much greater sales increases for certain of the non-durable goods stores did not seriously retard the rate of increase for durable goods outlets. Radio and electrical stores reported a substantial volume of business and sales were higher by 61 per cent in January this year compared with last. The increase in sales of hardware stores was more moderate in January than has been usual of late, but was still appreciably at 16 per cent over January a year ago. The narrowing margin of increase for jewellery stores has been in evidence for the past few months but sales for the trade remain at a very high level.

The increases of 10 per cent for food stores and four per cent for restaurants are consistent with the average trend in sales for these two trades in recent months. Chain candy stores reported an increase of 11 per cent in sales for January, 1947 over the same month a year ago. Sales of furriers, which had shown a tendency to taper off in the last month of 1946, responded to advertising promotion in January and increased 44 per cent over January, 1946.

Wholesale Sales in January

Dollar volume of wholesale sales in January, was nine per cent above that for the same month of 1946 according to statements received by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics from 350 wholesalers representing nine lines of trade. The general unadjusted index for Canada, on the base, average for 1935-1939=100, stood at 237.5 for January, 1947, 217.1 for January, 1946, and 221.6 for December, 1946.

Sales of wholesalers in the footwear trade, up 25 per cent, continued to show the greatest increase in volume over last year. The clothing trade, which has for the past few months also reported high increases over the previous year, registered an increase of only eight per cent in January, 1947 over January, 1946. This was the result of a drop of six per cent in sales reported by clothing wholesalers in Ontario and the Western Provinces combined. Sales of clothing wholesalers in Quebec, however, were 58 per cent higher in January last year.

Wholesalers in the hardware and grocery trades had sales 16 per cent above those in the same month a year ago. A 10 per cent gain was reported by the tobacco and confectionery wholesalers while other increases in sales amounted to nine per cent for dry goods and four per cent for drugs. Sales of fruits and vegetables continued lower in dollar volume than last year, a drop of six per cent being recorded from January a year ago.

Trends in Food Distribution

Dollar sales volume of wholesale grocers in January was 16 per cent higher than in the corresponding month of last year, according to figures compiled by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The advance was common to all regions of the country but was greater in the west than in the east. Wholesalers valued their stocks at the end of January, 44 per cent higher than at the same date last year, with practically no change from December.

January sales of chain store units operating in the food retailing field were 15 per cent higher than sales recorded in January, 1946. All sections of the country shared in the increase, that shown in Quebec -- 19.2 per cent -- being most pronounced. Independent food stores did eight per cent more business in January, Quebec and Ontario leading other regions of the country with advances of 11 and 10 per cent, respectively.

Employment Situation at Beginning of January

Industrial employment generally at the beginning of January in the experience of the years since 1920 has invariably shown a contraction, due to several factors, notably curtailment of outdoor work, shutdowns during the holiday season and for inventory purposes, absenteeism, etc. The recession in activity at January 1, 1947, resulted in the release of 44,618 men and women from recorded employment. The decline of 2.3 per cent was substantial, but was nevertheless rather smaller than that at January 1, 1946, being also below the average at January 1 in the last 26 years. On the other hand, the curtailment exceeded that indicated at the beginning of January in several of the war years.

The 17,084 establishments in the eight leading industries furnishing information to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics at January 1 reported a staff of 1,860,490, as compared with 1,905,108 at December 1. The crude index number of employment, on the base 1926=100, declined from 185.7 in the preceding survey, to 181.4, and compared with 168.2 at January 1, 1946. Since the shrinkage was less than normal in extent, the seasonally-adjusted index showed a gain, rising from 181.3 at December 1, to 188.5 at the beginning of January.

The latest decrease in employment was accompanied by a relatively larger falling-off in the indicated salaries and wages, in which the loss was not so great as that noted twelve months earlier. Reports received indicate that growing numbers of establishments pay their employees for the year-end holidays, while the fact that Christmas in 1946 fell in mid-week may have resulted in less absenteeism than in years when the holidays fall nearer to the week-end. Nevertheless, the very general observance of Boxing Day as a holiday in addition to Christmas Day, the loss of working time occasioned by increased absenteeism and lessened overtime work, together with the decline due to lowered employment, brought about a reduction of 6.1 per cent in the disbursements made on or about January 1, for services rendered in the week preceding. A year earlier, the loss had amounted to 8.5 per cent.

Logging, communications, retail trade and steam railway operation showed moderately heightened employment at January 1, when the improvement was largely of seasonal character. Manufacturing, mining, local and water transportation, construction and maintenance and services, on the other hand, showed contractions which were also seasonal. The largest reductions were those of 18,582 persons in manufacturing, and 21,531 in construction as a whole, in both of which the percentage losses were below-normal for the time of year. Within the manufacturing division, the movement was favourable in rubber, tobacco, electrical apparatus and non-ferrous metal factories. In all other classes, there were general reductions; the most noteworthy were in food, textile and iron and steel plants.

The sum of \$60,730,030 was distributed at January 1 in weekly salaries and wages by the 17,084 reporting employers in the eight leading industries; this total was lower by 6.1 per cent than that of \$64,683,551 disbursed at the first of December. As already stated, the falling-off was not so large as that of 8.5 per cent indicated at January 1, 1946, when the festivals had fallen closer to the week-end. The per capita weekly earnings declined from \$33.95 at December 1, to \$32.64 at the first of January, or by \$1.31; the loss of \$1.71 which had been shown at January 1, 1946, had lowered the average in the eight leading industries to \$29.92. In earlier years of the record, the means were as follows: 1945, \$30.10; 1944, \$29.69; 1943, \$27.92 and 1942, \$26.13.

Stocks of Fish in Cold Storage

Stocks of frozen fish in cold storage on March 1 amounted to 29,084,322 pounds compared with 34,717,623 on February 1, and 19,329,850 on the corresponding date last year, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. This year's March 1 stocks included 27,416,933 frozen fresh, and 1,667,389 pounds frozen smoked.

Claims for Unemployment Insurance

Claims for unemployment insurance benefit filed in local offices across Canada totalled 63,681 in January, an increase of 11,202 over the 52,479 recorded during December, but 8,251 fewer than the 71,932 filed in January, 1946, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. All provinces except Alberta, shared in the increase over the preceding month.

Ordinary claimants on the live unemployment register as at January 31 numbered 103,995 compared with 84,374 at December 31 and 145,952 at January 31, 1946. A total of 61,159 claims was adjudicated at insurance offices during January, 48,213 being considered entitled to benefit and 12,946 not entitled to benefit.

During January, 92,837 persons received one or more benefit payments totalling \$4,006,529 for 2,022,102 compensated unemployed days as against 68,825 persons who received \$2,508,116 for 1,268,847 compensated days in December and 102,718 persons paid \$4,493,252 for 2,193,317 days during January, 1946.

The average duration of the unemployment compensated was 21.8 days in January, 18.4 days in December and 21.4 days in January last year. The average amount of benefit paid per beneficiary was \$43.16 in January, \$36.44 in December and \$43.74 in January, 1946. The average amount of benefit paid per compensated day was \$1.98 in January, \$1.98 in December, and \$2.05 in January last year.

Meat Production in 1946

Total output of meats and offals in Canada from cattle, hogs, sheep and lambs in 1946 amounted to 2,173 million pounds in terms of fresh carcass weight, a decrease of 375 million pounds or 14.7 per cent from the 1945 output, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics reports. While appreciably below the record of 2,729 million pounds of meat in 1944, the 1946 output was almost 50 per cent above the prewar 1935-39 average of 1,481 million pounds.

The decrease in total 1946 output was chiefly attributable to the decline in hog production. Output of hog products, which recorded a peak of 1,503 million pounds in 1944, dropped to 1,112 million pounds in 1945 and was estimated at 824 million pounds for 1946. Output of beef and veal at 1,185 million pounds was six per cent below 1945. The only increase recorded over the previous year was a slightly higher output of mutton and lamb.

In consequence of the decline in meat output and the continuance of meat rationing, consumption of all meats per capita in 1946 fell to 130 pounds or 12.9 pounds lower than in 1945. However, total meat consumption per capita was still above the prewar average of 118.4 pounds.

Changes in per capita consumption among the various meats are closely related to the relative changes in output. An increase of 2.6 pounds in beef consumption per capita in 1946 was in contrast to a decline in pork consumption of 13 pounds. Veal consumption at 10.5 pounds per capita was 1.4 pounds less than in 1945, while consumption of mutton and lamb was slightly higher at 4.8 pounds per capita as compared with 4.7 pounds in 1945.

Lard and hog fat output in 1946, estimated at 58.4 million pounds, contrasts with a production of 94.3 million pounds in 1945. In part this drop was the result of a decrease in slaughterings and in part, of a sharp reduction in the amount of fat recovered per carcass. Per capita consumption of lard in Canada in 1946 is estimated at 4.9 pounds as compared with 7.5 pounds per capita in 1945.

Consumption of offals declined to 4.9 pounds per capita in 1946 from 6.0 pounds in 1945. Canned meat consumption, estimated at 3.5 pounds (actual weight in containers), compares with 3.6 pounds in the previous year.

Recent evidence points to lower total supplies of meat and offals from live stock in 1947. Live-stock surveys show further declines in numbers of cattle and sheep on farms at December 1, 1946. While reports from farmers anticipate increased sow farrowings this spring, and hence a larger spring pig crop in 1947 than in 1946, increased slaughterings will not be realized until the fall months of this year. Cattle slaughterings during the first two months of this year are below those of a year ago.

Stocks and Marketings of
Wheat and Coarse Grains

Stocks of Canadian wheat in store or in transit in North America at midnight on March 6 amounted to 116,945,673 bushels compared with 119,299,144 on February 27, and 127,037,791 on the corresponding date of last year, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Visible supplies on the latest date included 116,544,673 bushels in Canadian positions and 401,000 bushels in United States positions.

Prairie farmers marketed 2,158,749 bushels of wheat during the week ending March 6 as compared with 2,331,814 in the preceding week. During the period August 1 to March 6 deliveries of wheat from Prairie farms aggregated 254,512,494 bushels as compared with 190,037,374 in the corresponding period of the preceding crop year.

Following quantities of coarse grains also were delivered from farms in the Prairie Provinces during the week ending March 6, totals for the preceding week being in brackets: oats, 2,321,777 (2,350,668) bushels; barley, 981,042 (1,003,432); rye, 58,054 (60,668); flaxseed, 2,287 (2,459).

Production of Butter and Cheese

Creamery butter production in February amounted to 8,674,000 pounds, only 3,000 pounds more than that produced in the same month of last year, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. With the addition of nearly 32 million pounds in storage and in transit, on February 1, the supplies of domestic creamery butter available for consumption in February amounted to approximately 40,500,000 pounds.

The production of cheese in February amounted to 1,275,000 pounds, a decrease of six per cent from February last year, and the output for the two months, January and February, amounted to 2,997,000 pounds, or 3.6 per cent less than in the same month of 1946.

The production of all concentrated milk products was 13,234,000 pounds, being up 13.4 per cent from that of the same month a year ago. Whole milk products amounted to 10,356,000 pounds, and milk by-products were 2,878,000 pounds, representing increases of 7.5 and 41.8 per cent, respectively.

Milk production in January amounted to 943,762,000 pounds, an increase of 1.5 per cent over the same month last year. During the month of February, heavy storms and cold weather interfered with produced and delayed milk deliveries, particularly in some western sections

Stocks of Dairy and Poultry
Products on March First

Stocks of creamery butter in all positions on March 1 amounted to 23,890,000 pounds compared with 31,787,000 pounds on February 1, and 9,899,000 pounds on March 1 last year, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. This year's March 1 stocks included 1,676,000 pounds of imported butter. Cheese stocks on March 1 were recorded at 20,309,000 pounds against 23,432,000 pounds on February 1, and 20,104,000 pounds on March 1, 1946.

Storage stocks of evaporated whole milk on March 1 amounted to 10,601,000 pounds, a decrease of 2,248,000 pounds from February 1, but an advance of 3,638,000 pounds over March 1 last year. Holdings of skim milk powder totalled 2,014,000 pounds, slightly under February 1, but substantially higher than March 1, 1946.

Stocks of shell eggs on March 1 totalled 2,802,000 dozen against 2,130,000 on February 1, and 2,559,000 dozen on March 1, 1946. Frozen egg-meat stocks were 3,613,000 pounds against 4,895,000 pounds on February 1, and 4,503,000 pounds a year ago.

Holdings of poultry meat on March 1 aggregated 21,615,000 pounds as compared with 29,307,000 pounds on February 1, and 9,399,000 pounds on March 1, 1946.

Stocks of Unmanufactured Tobacco

Stocks of unmanufactured tobacco on hand in Canada at the end of 1945 were recorded at 96,423,926 pounds, slightly reduced from last year's corresponding figure of 97,941,363 pounds, but well above year-end stocks in 1944 of 77,824,375 pounds, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Stocks at the end of 1946 included 94,224,255 pounds of Canadian tobacco and 2,199,671 pounds of imported tobacco.

Stocks of Meat on March 1

Stocks of meat held by abattoirs, wholesale butchers and cold storage warehouses were lower on March 1, the total being 67,433,429 pounds as compared with 74,764,548 on February 1, and 71,571,862 on the corresponding date of last year, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

There were decreases in the stocks of all types of meat except pork, in which the increase was of moderate proportions. Stocks of pork amounted to 44,179,602 pounds compared with 41,527,864 on March 1 last year, beef 18,275,023 pounds compared with 24,316,561, veal 1,218,602 pounds against 1,854,744, and mutton and lamb 3,760,202 pounds against 3,872,693.

Lard stocks continued at a low level, amounting to 1,164,967 pounds against 1,418,568 on February 1, and 1,516,798 on March 1 last year.

Sugar Operations in February

Refinery stocks of raw sugar on February 22 were recorded at 110,894,000 pounds, being well above last year's holdings of 61,601,000 pounds, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Stocks of refined sugar, on the other hand, were six per cent lower, totalling 193,071,000 pounds against 205,684,000 a year ago. At the beginning of this year, stocks of raw sugar amounted to 111,414,000 pounds, and of refined sugar, 204,108,000.

During February, 19,977,000 pounds of raw sugar were received at refineries, dropping sharply from February 1946 receipts which totalled 44,283,000 pounds. Meltings and sales during the month amounted to 44,031,000 pounds against 63,199,000 in the similar period of 1946. Refined sugar manufactured during February amounted to 46,164,000 pounds as against 60,456,000 pounds in the similar period of 1946, and total sales, plus exports, amounted to 58,117,000 pounds compared with 55,701,000.

Farm Income from the Sale of Dairy Products in 1946

Milk production by Canadian dairy farmers declined in 1946 to 16,937,022,000 pounds as compared with 17,626,772,000 in 1945, a reduction of four per cent, but farm income from the sale of dairy products rose six per cent, totalling \$285,599,000 as compared with \$269,875,000 in 1945, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. All provinces shared in the advance in income with the single exception of New Brunswick, where the decline was limited to less than four per cent.

Sales of fluid milk and cream, the largest source of farm revenue from the sale of dairy products, accounted for 41 per cent of the total in 1946, displacing butter which had been the principal source in 1945. Fluid sales in 1946 aggregated 4,254,000,000 pounds with sales income of \$118,460,000 compared with 4,007,868,000 pounds and income of \$102,981,000 in 1945.

Butter sales accounted for 40 per cent of farm income from dairy products in 1946, the total being \$114,865,000 compared with \$110,007,000 in the preceding year. Production of butter in 1946 amounted to 327,869,000 pounds as against 349,899,000 in 1945.

Cheese was the next largest source of farm income from dairy product sales with a total of \$34,487,000 compared with \$39,793,000 in 1945. The amount of cheese produced during the year was 147,320,000 pounds compared with 188,729,000.

Income from sales of concentrated whole milk products advanced from \$12,844,000 in 1945 to \$13,382,000, and by-products from \$4,250,000 to \$4,405,000.

Stocks of Ingot Makers' Non-Ferrous Scrap Metal

Stocks of ingot makers' scrap metal at the end of January amounted to 4,275,532 pounds, a decline of 12 per cent from the total held at the first of the month, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Month-end stocks of secondary non-ferrous ingot were ten per cent lower, totalling 2,055,434 pounds against 2,271,413 pounds.

Production of Leading Minerals

Reflecting the high level of activity in the Canadian construction industry, production of cement, clay products -- brick, tile, etc. -- gypsum, and lime, was increased in 1946 as compared with the preceding year, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Production of coal and natural gas also advanced, but petroleum was lower. Gold output was increased but silver was reduced. Copper, nickel and zinc were produced in lesser volume, but lead moved higher.

Production of leading minerals in 1946 was as follows, totals for 1945 being in brackets: asbestos, 557,194 (466,897) tons; cement, 11,567,763 (8,471,679) barrels; clay products, \$11,829,560 (\$8,913,092); coal, 17,797,747 (16,506,713) tons; gold, 2,828,404 (2,696,727) fine ounces; gypsum, 1,813,728 (839,781) tons; lead, 357,452,902 (346,994,472) pounds; lime, 834,207 (832,253) tons; natural gas, 52,314,494 (48,411,585) M cubic feet; nickel, 189,665,605 (245,130,983) pounds; petroleum, 7,612,520 (8,482,796) barrels; salt, 314,025 (324,588) tons; silver, 12,870,426 (12,942,906) fine ounces; zinc, 474,429,588 (517,213,604) pounds; copper, 371,606,643 (474,914,052) pounds.

Commercial Failures in 1946

There were 278 commercial failures in Canada in 1946, showing a slight increase over the preceding year when 272 were recorded, according to figures compiled by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Estimated defaulted liabilities aggregated \$5,986,000 as against \$3,995,000.

During the year there were five failures in the Maritime Provinces, the same as in the preceding year. In Quebec, the failures increased from 225 in 1945 to 236 in 1946; while in Ontario the number dropped from 27 to 20. In the Prairie Provinces a betterment was shown, the number dropping from seven in 1945 to five in 1946; while in British Columbia failures increased from eight in 1945 to 12 in 1946.

Failures in trade were greater than in any other group of the classification, the increase from 1945 having been from 58 to 77. Failing manufacturing concerns increased from 54 to 57; while in agriculture, logging and mining, the failures rose from five in 1945 to nine in 1946.

Failures in construction fell from 39 in 1945 to 32 in 1946, and in transportation 14 occurred, compared with 12 in the preceding year. Seven failures were shown in finance, one more than in 1945. The decline in services of different classes was from 70 to 64.

Output of Central Electric Stations

Production of central electric stations in January reached a record total for a month, aggregating 3,919,475,000 kilowatt hours as against 3,672,116,000 in the preceding month and 3,428,773,000 in the corresponding month of last year, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

Consumption of primary power in January -- production less exports and secondary power -- also was at a high level, totalling 3,066,103,000 kilowatt hours compared with 2,877,011,000 in December, and 2,550,235,000 in January, 1946.

Gross exports of electric power to the United States in January amounted to 168,163,000 kilowatt hours against 168,598,000 in December, and 198,522,000 in January, 1946.

Farm Land Values in 1946

Average value of occupied farm lands in Canada for 1946 is reported at \$32.00 per acre, an increase of seven per cent over the average indicated in 1944 and 1945, and an increase of 28 per cent over the 1935-39 average, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Increases in farm land values over 1945 levels were reported in all provinces with the exception of Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick.

The upward trend in farm land values from prewar levels reflects, at least in part, the relative changes which have occurred in the price levels of farm products and of the things which farmers buy. The Bureau's index of farm prices of agricultural products for 1946 was 83.5 per cent above the 1935-39 level, while for the same year the index of prices of commodities and services used by farmers had advanced 45.4 per cent from the 1935-39 base period level.

Sales of Electric Storage Batteries

Sales of electric storage batteries and parts by principal Canadian producers were valued at \$860,322 during January, compared with \$829,603 in January, 1946, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The sales for January this year included 128,793 batteries at \$685,501 for the ignition of internal combustion engines; 101 batteries at \$446 for motor cycle starting; 6,077 cells at \$44,682 for farm lighting plants; 892 cells at \$17,370 for railway services; batteries valued at \$72,982 for other purposes, including those for telephone switchboards, and miscellaneous parts and supplies for batteries valued at \$39,341.

Car Loadings on Canadian Railways

Car loadings on Canadian railways for the week ended March 1 increased to 69,962 cars from 68,503 cars for the preceding week and 66,083 cars for the corresponding week last year, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The western division has shown increases for three consecutive weeks and reached 24,608 cars as against 23,010 cars for the previous week, grain increasing from 3,211 to 5,036 cars; coal decreased from 3,400 to 3,001 cars.

Loadings of coal in the western division declined to 1,168 cars from 1,338 in the preceding week. Total pulpwood loadings declined to 5,335 cars from 5,691 cars last year, but wood pulp and paper increased to 4,498 cars from 3,916 cars in 1946. Lumber increased to 3,567 from 2,558 cars, gasoline and oils to 3,353 from 2,413 cars, autos, trucks and parts to 1,045 from 696 cars, and merchandise -- L.C.L. -- to 16,720 from 16,266 cars.

Reports Issued During the Week

1. Average Hours Worked and Average Hourly Earnings, January (10 cents).
2. Cold Storage Holdings of Fish, March 1 (10 cents).
3. Canadian Grain Statistics - Weekly (10 cents).
4. Car Loadings on Canadian Railways - Weekly (10 cents).
5. Ingot Makers' Report on Non-Ferrous Scrap Metal, and Secondary Non-Ferrous Ingot, January (10 cents).
6. Supplement to the Monthly Dairy Review (25 cents).
7. Imports Entered for Consumption, December, and the 12 months Ended December, 1946 (25 cents).
8. Domestic Exports, January (10 cents).
9. Indexes of Retail Sales, January (10 cents).
10. Factory Sales of Electric Storage Batteries, January (10 cents).
11. Cold Storage Stocks of Dairy Products, March 1 (10 cents).
12. Estimates of the Output and Slaughtering of Meat Animals and Consumption of Meat, 1946 (10 cents).
13. Production of Canada's Leading Minerals, December (10 cents).
14. Cold Storage Holdings of Meat and Lard, March 1 (10 cents).
15. Farm Land Values, 1946 (10 cents).
16. Stocks and Consumption of Unmanufactured Tobacco (10 cents).
17. Gold Production, November (10 cents).
18. Radio Receiving Sets, December (10 cents).
19. Products Made from Canadian Clays, November (10 cents).
20. Civil Aviation, November (10 cents).
21. Traffic Report of Railways, November (10 cents).
22. Monthly Dairy Review, February (10 cents).
23. Sugar Report, February 1 to 22, 1947 (10 cents).
24. Geographical Distribution of the Manufacturing Industries, 1944 (50 cents).
25. Current Trends in Food Distribution (10 cents).
26. Indexes of Wholesale Sales, January (10 cents).
27. Central Electric Stations, January (10 cents).
28. Commercial Failures, 1946 (15 cents).
29. Dealers' Monthly Report on Non-Ferrous Scrap Metal, December (10 cents).
30. Births, Deaths and Marriages, January (10 cents).
31. Employment Situation, January (10 cents).

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