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## DOMESTIC MERCHANDISE EXPORT TRADE UP 17 PER CENT IN FEBRUARY

Featured by large gains in wood, wood products and paper, and in metals in the non-ferrous group, Canada's merchandise export trade in February rose 17 per cent over the corresponding month last year, being valued at \$179,500,000 as compared with \$153,100,000, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

February's advance followed upon a similar increase of ten per cent in January, when exports were valued at \$208,600,000 as against \$189,090,000 in January, 1946. Combined total for the two months was \$388,100,000 compared with \$342,200,000 in the like period of 1946, a rise of 13.4 per cent.

Exports in the wood and paper group rose from \$39,700,000 in February last year to \$59,400,000, continuing the pronounced advance of preceding months. Major gains were shown in newsprint, planks and boards and wood pulp. Newsprint exports were valued at \$21,921,000 compared with \$17,259,000, planks and boards \$15,676,000 compared with \$6,601,000, and wood pulp \$11,202,000 compared with \$8,971,000.

With substantial gains in the export of aluminum, lead, nickel and electrical apparatus, value of the non-ferrous metals and products group rose from \$11,129,000 to \$16,433,000. Zinc exports were lower. The non-metallics rose from \$2,990,000 to \$4,270,000, but chemicals fell from \$5,286,000 to \$5,053,000. In the iron and products group, which rose in total from \$19,637,000 to \$20,089,000, the more outstanding gains included farm and industrial machinery, automobiles, hardware and cutlery, and ferro-alloys. Decreases were shown for railway locomotives and cars, and automobile parts.

There was an advance in the agricultural and vegetable products group, the total rising from \$36,692,000 to \$39,917,000. In continuation of the expansion of past months, wheat flour exports rose from \$8,841,000 to \$12,269,000, while wheat shipments were lower, dropping from \$15,390,000 to \$12,973,000. Increases were shown in fruits and vegetables, seeds and tobacco.

Animals and animal products were exported in February to the value of \$26,117,000 as compared with \$29,522,000 in the corresponding month last year. Among the chief items, bacon and hams showed the largest decrease, being valued at \$3,463,000 against \$7,379,000; exports of other meats were slightly higher at \$6,802,000 against \$6,753,000. Fish and fishery products, valued at \$5,737,000, were up about ten per cent, and eggs -- shell and processed -- valued at \$3,953,000, were about doubled.

The United States took Canadian merchandise in February to the value of \$69,396,000, or 20 per cent more than in the same month last year, bringing the total for the first two months of the year to \$148,849,000 as against \$119,886,000 in the same period of 1946. Shipments to the United Kingdom also increased in February, the value rising from \$37,885,000 to \$44,871,000, or by 1.8 per cent. The two-month aggregate was \$95,336,000 against \$89,033,000.

Exports to the Union of South Africa were again at a high level in February, the value being \$5,721,000 as against \$1,319,000. Shipments to Australia also were sharply higher, totalling \$4,722,000 against \$933,000. Exports to Belgium totalled \$4,179,000, down from last year's total of \$7,169,000, and to France \$5,395,000, also lower than the February 1946 value of \$6,293,000. Total for European countries was \$22,391,000 as against \$24,910,000 last year.

Exports to countries of Latin America were substantially higher in February, aggregating \$10,879,000 compared with \$7,191,000. Most marked advances were shown for Argentina and Brazil, shipments to Venezuela being somewhat lower. Exports to China were up substantially, being valued at \$3,317,000 against \$894,000.

WORLD WHEAT OUTLOOK FOR 1947-48

Pessimistic reports on the condition of the winter wheat crop seeded in the fall of 1946 in the United Kingdom and continental Europe have led some informed sources to the conclusion that European wheat requirements in 1947-48 may be no less heavy than during the current crop year. Should the winter-kill prove to be of serious extent and the current wet weather further delay spring seeding, there may be ample grounds for assuming another year of shortages in the affected countries. Over and above the weather factors, too, it is unlikely that all deficits of draught power, labour, suitable seed and fertilizers can be made good within the next year or two, and any lack of these items is certain to have a negative effect upon production. In India, a moderately good wheat crop is now being harvested but some imports will still be required.

There are no indications as yet that Australia and the Argentine will seed increased acreages of wheat in 1947 and it is too early to venture any estimate as to probable 1947 yields in these countries. In Canada, soil moisture conditions in the spring wheat areas are reported good but here, too, it is much too early to hazard a production estimate. The only plausible assumption at this stage, and this is also true of Australia and the Argentine, is that average condition will prevail. The United States has increased its over-all wheat acreage by some four million acres; and given average conditions in the spring wheat area and a continuation of the present excellent condition of the winter wheat crop, a record production in excess of 1,200 million bushels compared with 1,156 million bushels in 1946 could be achieved.

If the 1947 production pattern develops along the lines noted above, it is conceivable that wheat may still be in relatively short world supply during the 1947-48 crop year. At least one other factor may affect the broad picture. With the expiration of UNRRA a tendency may develop in some quarters to place trade on a cash basis. However, should a shortage in effective demand impose certain limitations on the movement of food to deficit areas, it seems reasonable to suppose that most deficit countries would curtail or even cease the importation of almost all other commodities before they would willingly allow imports of bread grains to be diminished.

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STOCKS AND MARKETINGS OF  
WHEAT AND COARSE GRAINS

Stocks of Canadian wheat in store or in transit in North America at midnight on March 27 amounted to 110,173,482 bushels as compared with 113,315,734 at the end of the preceding week and 106,202,354 on the corresponding date of last year, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Visible supplies on the latest date included 110,173,482 bushels in Canadian positions and 324,836 bushels in United States positions.

Wheat deliveries from farms in the Prairie Provinces were lighter during the week ending March 27, the total being 1,924,233 bushels compared with 2,846,816 in the preceding week. During the elapsed portion of the present crop year -- August 1 to March 27 -- deliveries of wheat from Prairie farms aggregated 261,950,284 bushels as compared with 194,318,374 bushels in the similar period of the preceding crop year.

The following quantities of coarse grains were also delivered from farms in the Prairie Provinces during the week ending March 27, totals for the preceding week being in brackets: oats, 1,443,749 (2,387,650) bushels; barley, 657,275 (944,088); rye, 49,533 (107,308); flaxseed, 4,667 (6,223).

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WOOL PRODUCTION IN 1946

Total wool production in Canada in 1946 amounted to 19,001,000 pounds, a reduction of 625,000 pounds from the 1945 output, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The reduction was attributable to a decline in shorn wool production which was 802,000 pounds below that of 1945. Domestic disappearance of wool in 1946 totalled 112,600,000 pounds as compared with 67,200,000 in 1945. The large increase was due to a marked rise in imports which rose from 59,506,000 pounds (greasy basis) to 100,042,000 pounds.

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STOCKS OF BUTTER, CHEESE AND EGGS

Stocks of creamery butter in nine of the principal cities of Canada on April 1 stood at 6,437,417 pounds as compared with 11,273,865 on March 1, and 1,921,235 on the corresponding date last year, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. April 1 cheese stocks were 11,182,571 pounds against 12,935,604 on March 1, and 11,378,907 a year ago.

Stocks of cold storage eggs on April 1 amounted to 1,265,646 dozen compared with 131,695 on March 1, and 1,284,375 last year. Holdings of fresh eggs totalled 1,781,862 dozen compared with 1,178,084 on March 1, while the stocks of frozen egg meats were 3,298,238 pounds compared with 3,190,956 on March 1, and 3,124,725 on April 1, 1946.

TOTAL POULTRY ON CANADIAN FARMS  
SHOWED AN INCREASE IN 1946

In contrast with the decline in live stock, the number of poultry on Canadian farms on December 1 last year was higher than a year earlier, totalling 58,466,900 head as compared with 55,426,900, a gain of 5.5 per cent, according to the semi-annual survey by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The previous survey, in June last year, indicated a slight increase over June 1945.

The gain in total poultry in December was due mainly to an increase of 5.8 per cent in Domestic fowl to 54,702,200 from 51,696,800 at December 1, 1945. Turkeys also moved up 3.7 per cent to 2,648,900 from 2,555,500. On the other hand, geese decreased three per cent to 541,500 from 558,000, and ducks dropped 6.9 per cent to 574,300 from the 1945 total of 616,600.

There were increases in the number of domestic fowl (hens, cocks and chickens) in all provinces except Prince Edward Island, Manitoba and Alberta. Numbers for each province, with figures for December, 1945, in brackets, are as follows: Prince Edward Island, 816,800 (890,700); Nova Scotia, 1,200,000 (1,090,000); New Brunswick, 1,237,500 (1,082,400); Quebec, 8,900,000 (7,579,600); Ontario, 20,556,000 (18,938,600); Manitoba, 4,952,600 (5,085,000); Saskatchewan, 9,066,800 (8,868,200); Alberta, 5,910,500 (6,139,900); British Columbia, 2,062,000 (2,022,400);

Turkey numbers were higher in four provinces and lower in five. Figures for the five leading provinces, with comparative 1945 figures were: Quebec, 243,700 (153,300); Ontario, 559,500 (571,000); Manitoba, 343,500 (335,000); Saskatchewan, 800,000 (818,000); Alberta, 597,300 (580,800).

COUNTRY GENERAL STORE SALES IN FEBRUARY

Country general store sales in February moved one per cent ahead of January and were eight per cent above February last year, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The increase over February a year ago was about the same as the gain which took place in January and represents a continuation of the moderate but steady advancement in sales noted in recent months.

Unadjusted indexes of sales, on the base 1935-1939=100, stood at 150.7 for February this year, 140.2 for February last year, and 149.2 for January. The adjusted index of sales stood at 202.5, being the second month in which the adjusted figures has exceeded the 200 per cent mark in relation to the five year base period. 1935-1939; April 1946 was the only other month in which this occurred.

Stores located in Ontario reported an increase of 13 per cent in sales, being somewhat higher than the overall increase for the country as a whole. Stores in Saskatchewan, on the other hand, increased their sales by less than one per cent over February a year ago. In all other sections of the country, sales increases were fairly close to the average gain of eight per cent.

PRODUCTION OF WIRE FENCING IN JANUARY

Production of steel wire fencing in January totalled 2,323 tons, showing a slight decrease from last year's corresponding total of 2,385 tons, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Output for the latest month included 2,122 tons of farm fencing, and 201 tons of chain link fabric.

OUTPUT OF ELECTRIC REFRIGERATORS  
AND WASHING MACHINES GAINS IN JANUARY

Canadian production of electric refrigerators and washing machines for domestic use reached a new postwar high level in January, according to figures for that month released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

Output of domestic-type electric refrigerators totalled 7,886 units as against 5,938 units in December, the previous postwar high of 7,230 units in November, and 2,384 units in January last year. Imports of complete electric refrigerators, both domestic and store, during January, totalled 1,252 units, while exports numbered 99 units. Shipments by Canadian producers amounted to 7,113 units in the month.

Electric washing machines for home use produced during the month advanced to 10,177 units as compared with 8,612 in December and 7,722 in January, 1946. Previous postwar high for a month was 9,558 in May last year. In addition to electric models, January production included 1,486 gasoline and 598 hand-operated machines, making a total of 12,261 units of all kinds as compared with 10,205 in December and 8,942 in January last year. Imports in the month totalled 3,254 machines valued at \$246,450 and exports, 653 machines valued at \$52,821.

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PRODUCTION OF IRON AND STEEL IN FEBRUARY

Production of pig iron in Canada was maintained at a comparatively high level in February, totalling 150,632 tons as compared with 143,171 tons in the corresponding month last year, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Total for the first two months of the year was 327,945 tons compared with 286,856 in the similar period of 1946. This year's February output included 114,931 tons of basic iron, 23,817 tons of foundry iron, and 11,884 tons of malleable iron.

Production of steel ingots and castings was lower in February, amounting to 229,222 tons as against 233,893 in the same month last year. Total for the two months ended February, at 479,020 tons, was slightly higher than in the like period of 1946. Output for the latest month included 223,124 tons of steel ingots and 6,098 tons of castings.

February production of ferro-alloys totalled 9,357 tons compared with 10,872 in February a year ago, bringing the total for the two months of the year to 19,001 tons against 21,750 in 1946.

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PRODUCTION OF NICKEL AND COPPER IN JANUARY

Reaching the highest monthly total since August 1945, production of nickel in January this year was recorded at 19,447,552 pounds as compared with 16,988,037 in the preceding month and 13,823,097 in January, 1946, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The August 1945 total was 21,896,415 pounds.

Production of new copper in all forms was reduced in January, the month's total standing at 28,630,929 pounds as compared with 30,327,699 in December, and 32,021,065 in January, 1946.

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PRODUCTION AND EXPORTS OF SILVER,  
LEAD AND ZINC IN JANUARY

Silver production was at a lower level in January, amounting to 767,095 fine ounces as compared with 1,013,438 in the preceding month and 1,204,506 in the corresponding month of last year, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Exports during the month included 767,929 fine ounces of the refined metal, and 138,923 fine ounces in ores and concentrates. Production of primary lead in January was recorded at 25,152,806 pounds as against 26,556,720 in December and 34,069,146 in January, 1946. Exports of lead in pigs totalled 17,371,900 pounds compared with 16,016,900 in January last year, and lead in ore, 670,100 pounds compared with 1,147,800. Zinc production in January amounted to 35,062,672 pounds in comparison with 37,071,231 in December and 41,734,017 in January, 1946. Exports of zinc spelter in January totalled 40,795,900 pounds as against 25,628,100, and zinc in ore, 7,181,100 pounds against 13,317,400 pounds.

PRODUCTION OF CRUDE PETROLEUM

Canadian output of crude petroleum and natural gasoline was at a lower level in January, totalling 597,572 barrels as compared with 680,327 in the corresponding month last year, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Alberta's output for the month stood at 563,172 barrels against 660,645 a year ago.

JANUARY OUTPUT OF NATURAL GAS

Continuing the advance noted in recent months, production of natural gas was further increased in January, amounting to 5,970,806,000 cubic feet as compared with 5,845,380,000 in the preceding month and 5,640,088,000 in the corresponding month last year, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

SHIPMENTS OF ASBESTOS IN JANUARY

Shipments of asbestos from Canadian mines were increased in January, the total being 44,058 tons as compared with 36,511 in the corresponding month last year, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. During the month, 42,828 tons were exported as against 33,728 tons in January, 1946.

PRODUCTION OF ASBESTOS GOODS

Asbestos goods were manufactured in 1945 to the value of \$5,677,000, an increase of 19 per cent over the 1944 total of \$4,761,000, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The products included brake linings valued at \$1,690,799; boiler and pipe covering, \$653,533; clutch facings, \$367,920; asbestos packings, \$285,524; and such other lines as asbestos gaskets, cloth, yarn dryer felts, cements, etc.

CEMENT SHIPMENTS AND PRODUCTION  
HIGHER IN JANUARY THAN LAST YEAR

January shipments of Portland cement by Canadian manufacturers were sharply higher than a year earlier, totalling 401,060 barrels as against 310,285 barrels in January, 1946, according to figures issued by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Actual production of cement rose to 852,767 barrels as compared with 783,205 barrels in the corresponding month last year.

Stocks of cement at plants and warehouses at the end of January amounted to 915,626 barrels as compared with 466,792 at the beginning of the month and 1,832,139 barrels at the end of January last year. Exports during January were 5,626 barrels and imports 44,773 barrels.

SALT PRODUCTION AND SHIPMENTS IN JANUARY

Production of salt in Canada during January amounted to 76,005 tons as compared with 71,516 tons in December and 54,994 tons in November, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics reports. The January output consisted of 45,167 tons of table, common fine and other commercial grades, and 30,838 tons for the manufacture of chemicals.

Shipments of commercial grades of salt totalled 43,580 tons in January as against 40,698 tons in December, and deliveries for chemical purposes were 30,604 tons compared with 27,114 tons. Imports of salt of all grades during the month amounted to 18,556 tons and exports to 195 tons.

PRODUCTION AND DOMESTIC SALES  
OF RIGID INSULATING BOARD

Production of rigid insulating board was increased in February, the total being 14,475,637 square feet as compared with 11,707,673 in the corresponding month last year, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Domestic sales during the month amounted to 10,988,001 square feet compared with 10,204,564.

### OUTPUT OF ARTIFICIAL ABRASIVES

Factory selling value of all products made during 1945 by manufacturers in Canada of artificial abrasives and artificial abrasive products amounted to \$25,493,000, a decrease of 15 per cent from 1944, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Crude fused alumina accounted for approximately half of the total value in 1945, aggregating \$13,573,000, followed by crude silicon carbide at \$5,361,000, and abrasive wheels and segments, \$3,131,000.

### PRODUCTION OF ELECTRIC REFRIGERATION EQUIPMENT

There was a sharp increase in the production of electric refrigeration equipment in Canada in 1946, the value being \$13,762,000, or more than eight times the value recorded in 1945, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Domestic refrigeration units accounted for well over 60 per cent of the total value.

Production of complete domestic types totalled 56,786 units valued at \$8,597,025 compared with 2,418 units valued at \$355,225 in the preceding year. Production of commercial units, including "reach-in" boxes, condensing units, evaporators, finned coils, blower coils, milk coolers, etc. amounted in value to \$5,164,518 compared with \$1,244,841.

### SALES OF ELECTRIC STORAGE BATTERIES IN FEBRUARY

Sales of electric storage batteries and parts by principal Canadian producers were valued at \$1,106,080 during February compared with \$774,357 in the corresponding month last year, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Total for the first two months of this year was \$1,966,402 compared with \$1,603,960 in the similar period of last year.

### COST-OF-LIVING INDEX FOR MARCH 1

The Dominion Bureau of Statistics cost-of-living index, on the base 1935-1939=100, continued upward from 127.8 on February 1 to 128.9 on March 1. The rise in this series since March 1946 has amounted to 9.8 index points. Foods mounted from 147.0 for February to 148.7 for March, with meats, fruits and vegetables contributing a major part of the increase. Eggs showed the only appreciable decline.

Changes in other group indexes were as follows: clothing advanced from 131.9 to 133.1, homefurnishings and services from 130.9 to 133.6, and miscellaneous items from 115.5 to 116.0. Ten of the sub-indexes forming the first two of these group series moved upward. Fuel and light remained at 109.1 and rentals at 113.4.

### PRODUCTION OF CENTRAL ELECTRIC STATIONS

Advancing to a new high record for the month, output of central electric stations in February amounted to 3,589,225,000 kilowatt hours, an increase of 12.7 per cent over the corresponding month last year, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Total for the first two months of this year was 7,507,243,000 kilowatt hours compared with 6,611,784,000 in the similar period of 1946.

Exports to the United States in February amounted to 151,786,000 kilowatt hours as against 178,661,000 in February 1946, secondary power declining from 72,461,000 to 41,188,000. During the first two months of this year, power exports totalled 319,949,000 kilowatt hours compared with 377,183,000 in the like period of 1946.

### STOCKS OF INGOT-MAKERS NON-FERROUS SCRAP METAL

Stocks of ingot-makers' non-ferrous scrap metal at the end of January were recorded at 4,308,557 pounds, showing a slight increase during the month, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Stocks of secondary non-ferrous ingot also were slightly higher, amounting to 2,105,795 pounds against 2,055,434 on January 1.

CAR LOADINGS ON CANADIAN RAILWAYS

Car loadings on Canadian railways for the week ended March 29 declined to 70,203 cars from 72,486 cars for the preceding week but were slightly above last year's loadings of 69,480 cars, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Grain declined from 6,981 cars in 1946 to 6,060, live stock from 2,375 cars to 1,851, coal from 4,934 cars to 3,526, and miscellaneous freight from 5,780 cars to 5,467. The large increases were: other mine products from 710 to 1,218 cars, pulpwood from 3,420 to 4,131 cars, lumber from 2,825 to 3,311 cars, and wood pulp and paper from 4,049 to 4,702 cars.

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REPORTS ISSUED DURING THE WEEK

1. Car Loadings on Canadian Railways - Weekly (10 cents).
2. Railway Revenue Freight Loadings, February (10 cents).
3. Production of Poultry and Eggs, 1946 (25 cents).
4. Directory of Private Schools in Eight Provinces (25 cents).
5. Warehousing, 1945 (25 cents).
6. Production of Canada's Leading Minerals, January (10 cents).
7. Asbestos Production Industry, 1945 (25 cents).
8. Artificial Abrasives Industry, 1945 (25 cents).
9. Domestic Washing Machines, January (10 cents).
10. Domestic Type Electric Refrigerators, January (10 cents).
11. Wire Fencing, January (10 cents).
12. Silver, Lead and Zinc, January (10 cents).
13. Prices and Price Indexes, February (10 cents).
14. Indexes of Country General Store Sales, February (10 cents).
15. Electric Refrigeration Equipment, 1946 (25 cents).
16. Monthly Review of Business Statistics, February (10 cents).
17. Monthly Review of the Wheat Situation, (10 cents).
18. Canada, 1947 (25 cents).
19. Wool Production, 1946 (10 cents).
20. Poultry Survey, December 1, 1946 (10 cents).
21. Cotton Textile Industries, 1944 (25 cents).
22. Printing Trades in Canada, 1944 (35 cents).
23. Stocks of Butter, Cheese and Eggs in Principal Cities of Canada, April 1 (10 cents).
24. Factory Sales of Electric Storage Batteries, February (10 cents).
25. Salt, January (10 cents).
26. Cement, January (10 cents).
27. Asbestos, January (10 cents).
28. Petroleum and Natural Gas Production, January (10 cents).
29. Copper and Nickel Production, January (10 cents).
30. Production of Iron and Steel, February (10 cents).
31. Price Movements, March (10 cents).
32. Central Electric Stations, February (10 cents).
33. Canadian Grain Statistics - Weekly (10 cents).
34. Trade of Canada: Domestic Exports, February (10 cents).
35. Ingot Makers' Report on Non-Ferrous Scrap Metal and Secondary Non-Ferrous Ingot, February (10 cents).
36. Imports Entered for Consumption, January (25 cents).

Copies of these and other Bureau reports may be obtained on application to the Dominion Statistician, Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Ottawa.

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