D.B.S. WEEKLY BULLETIN

Dominion Bureau of Statistics

DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND COMMERCE

OTTAWA - CANADA

$1 a year

Vol. XV - No. 16 Saturday, April 19,1947

STOCKS OF CANADIAN GRAINS ON MARCH 31

Stocks of Canadian wheat in all North American positions on March 31, 1947, were 245.4 million bushels, an increase of 33 million bushels, or 15.5 per cent above the level of a year ago, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Of this year's March 31 stocks, only 0.2 million bushels were held in the United States, as compared with 2.5 million last year. These data are obtained from the Bureau's annual March-end survey of grain held on farms, from mill returns and from figures supplied by the Board of Grain Commissioners relative to stocks of grain in commercial positions. These complete figures on stocks differ from the weekly visible supply figures by the inclusion of farm stocks and certain eastern mill stocks. Farm stocks include seed held for the 1947 crop and grain required for live-stock and poultry feed until new crop grain becomes available.

Over four-fifths of Canada's total wheat stocks at the end of March were held on farms and in country elevators, 133.2 million bushels or 54.3 per cent of total stocks being accounted for by farm-held wheat, and 65.3 million bushels or 26.6 per cent by wheat stored in country elevators. A year earlier there were an estimated 106.0 million bushels on farms and 35.6 million bushels in country elevators. Lakehead stocks stood at 16.9 million bushels on March 31 this year, nearly 30 per cent down from last year's figure of 24 million bushels, and stocks in other forward positions were also considerably lower.

The relatively high proportion of stocks remaining in interior positions this year is chiefly attributable to transportation difficulties experienced during the fall and winter months, which have seriously delayed the country's export program and are in large part responsible for the increase in March-end total what stocks over last year's level. Exports of wheat and flour in terms of wheat for the eight-month period ending March 31 were roughly 139 million bushels as compared with approximately 259 million bushels for the same period last year.

Farm stocks of wheat in the Prairie Provinces accounted for 129 million bushels of the total Canadian farm stocks of 133.2 million bushels. The quantity of wheat on farms in Manitoba is estimated at 14 million bushels, in Saskatchewan at 77 million and in Alberta at 38 million bushels. From these stocks will be taken seed for the 1947 crop and such amounts as may be required for live-stock and poultry feed during the remaining third of the crop year, leaving the balance to be divided between deliveries and July 31 carry-over stocks of sufficient magnitude to meet farm requirements until new grain is available.

Estimated quantities of wheat used for feed in the province in which it was produced during the 1946-47 crop year are slightly below the comparable estimates for 1945-46. It is estimated that 37.3 million bushels of wheat will have been fed by the end of the current crop year as compared with 39.7 million for the last crop year. In addition, there is western feed wheat which has moved under the Freight Assistance Policy to the eastern provinces and to British Columbia. Freight assisted shipments of wheat (on which claims have been filed to date) for the seven-month period ending February were 13.7 million bushels or approximately 20 per cent less than the free-freight movement of wheat during the same period last year.

Stocks of Canadian oats on March 31, 1947, were 184.0 million bushels, practically all of which were located in Canada -- with 154.9 million remaining in farmers' hands. Barley stocks in all positions amounted to 76.8 million bushels. Of this quantity, slightly more than half a million bushels were in the United States, while 58 million bushels were held on farms.

Stocks of rye at March 31 totalled 2.8 million bushels of which 0.8 million bushels were still on farms. Total stocks of flaxseed amounted to 3.2 million bushels, with farm stocks accounting for 1.2 million bushels.

PRODUCTION OF BUTTER AND CHEESE IN MARCH

Production of creamery butter rose two per cent in March, amounting to 12,076,000 pounds as compared with 11,839,000 in the corresponding month last year, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Total make for the first quarter of this year was 1.2 per cent ahead of last year, totalling 30,557,000 pounds compared with 30,185,000.

Cheddar cheese production was down in March, the total being 2,149,000 pounds compared with 2,709,000 in March 1946, and the aggregate for the first three months of the year fell 6.9 per cent, or from 5,819,000 pounds in 1946 to 5,416,000 pounds.

Output of concentrated milk products in March amounted to 21,943,000 pounds, an increase of 2.8 per cent over the total for March last year, while the aggregate for the first quarter, at 48,951,000 pounds, was 8.8 per cent higher than in 1946.

STOCKS OF BUTTER, CHEESE AND EGGS

Stocks of creamery butter on April 1 amounted to 15,177,225 pounds compared with 24,113,766 pounds on March 1 and 5,382,937 pounds on April 1 last year, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. This year's April 1 stocks included 14,171,353 pounds of Canadian creamery in cold storages, 760,872 pounds imported, and 245,000 pounds in carloads in the hands of railway companies. Cheese stocks on April 1 totalled 18,818,577 pounds as against 20,188,454 pounds on March 1, and 18,172,687 pounds on April 1, 1946.

Stocks of evaporated whole milk held by or for manufacturers were increased on April 1, totalling 13,910,476 pounds, as against 10,532,283 pounds on March 1, and 10,436,766 pounds on April 1 last year. Holdings of skim milk powder also were increased, amounting to 2,465,845 pounds compared with 1,926,113 on March 1, and 734,101 a year ago.

April 1 stocks of cold storage eggs totalled 3,117,066 dozen as against 398,905 dozen on March 1, and 2,103,995 dozen on April 1, 1946; fresh eggs amounted to 3,129,181 dozen compared with 2,335,962 on March 1, and 3,200,186 a year ago. Stocks of frozen egg meats were recorded at 4,010,612 pounds, against 3,693,541 on March 1, and 3,839,906 last year.

Stocks of poultry meat on April 1 totalled 16,352,246 pounds, compared with 21,425,884 on March 1, and 6,467,290 a year ago.

MEAT STOCKS LOWER ON APRIL 1

Stocks of meat held by packing plants, wholesale butchers and cold storage warehouses were at a lower level on April 1, the total being 62,987,413 pounds compared with 67,559,293 on March 1, and 77,620,163 on the corresponding date of last year, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

There were decreases in the stocks of all types of meat on April 1 as compared with the same date a year ago. Pork stocks totalled 43,509,354 pounds compared with 50,731,308, beef 15,553,750 pounds compared with 21,453,414, veal 1,114,818 pounds compared with 2,085,585, and mutton and lamb 2,809,491 pounds compared with 3,349,856.

Lard stocks on April 1 totalled 1,246,866 pounds as against 1,213,963 pounds on March 1, and 1,432,153 pounds a year ago.

STOCKS OF FISH IN COLD STORAGE

Stocks of frozen fish in cold storage on April 1 amounted to 25,518,063 pounds, compared with 28,577,885 pounds on March 1, and 18,809,569 pounds on April 1 last year, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. This year's April 1 stocks comprised 24,101,052 pounds frozen fresh and 1,417,011 pounds frozen smoked.

STOCKS OF FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

Stocks of frozen fruit and fruit in preservatives in storages and factories on April 1 totalled 23,924,409 pounds as compared with 27,571,611 pounds on March 1, and 17,706,042 pounds on April 1 last year, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Vegetables, frozen and in brine, amounted to 4,919,190 pounds against 5,-914,742 pounds on March 1, and 3,421,977 pounds a year ago.

Canadian apples in cold and common storage, including the holdings of commercial growers, totalled 420,723 bushels on April 1, as against 269,370 bushels on April 1, 1946. Stocks of Canadian vegetables were higher, holding of potatoes amounting to 270,664 tons compared with 99,917 on April 1 last year; onions, 4,931 tons against 2,952; beets, 390 tons against 169; carrots, 2,899 tons against 1,892; cabbages, 1,054 against 42; parsnips, 409 tons against 292; and celery, 4,140 crates against 523; there were also 19,135 crates of imported celery as against 30,907.

SUGAR OPERATIONS IN MARCH

Refinery stocks of raw sugar on March 28 were considerably heavier than on the corresponding date of last year, but stocks of refined sugar were lighter, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Raw sugar stocks were recorded at 108,252,298 pounds as compared with 68,003,217 pounds a year ago, and refined sugar 181,304,255 pounds compared with 209,241,612.

During the four weeks ended March 28, raw sugar receipts totalled 44,927,597 pounds as against 57,419,124 in the similar period of 1946, while meltings and sales during the period amounted to 47,569,028 pounds against 51,016,935. Amount of refined sugar manufactred during the four weeks was sharply reduced, totalling 11,-529,655 pounds as compared with 51,257,103 a year ago; sales, plus exports, fell to 14,133,816 pounds from 47,708,651.

CHEQUES CASHED AGAINST INDIVIDUAL ACCOUNTS ROSE TO NEW MAXIMUM IN 1946

Cheques cashed in the clearing centres of Canada rose to a new maximum during 1946, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The total at $69.2 billion was $863 million greater than the previous high point reached in 1945. The advance during the war period was extraordinary, increases having persisted year by year from 1939. The standing in the latter year was $30.9 billion, the cumulative advance during the period having been practically 124 per cent.

Three of the five economic areas recorded gains in the cheques cashed during 1946 over the preceding year. The greatest percentage advance was shown in British Columbia, the aggregate for the clearing centres of the province having been 21.5 per cent greater. The further increase in the Maritime Provinces was 3.2 per cent or more than $50 million.

The absolute gain in Quebec was greater than in any other economic area. The decline in Ontario was due to the reduction in Ottawa, where government transactions are a feature. The considerable increase in Toronto was insufficient to counterbalance that decline and the provincial total showed a recession of 3.6 per cent. Occasioned by the recessions in Regina and Winnipeg, a drop of 3.8 per cent was shown in the total for the Prairie Provinces.

Amount of cheques cashed by economic areas was as follows in 1946, with totals for 1945 in brackets (thousands of dollars); Maritimes, $1,604,018 ($1,553,591); Quebec, $20,749,360 ($19,309,333); Ontario, $30,401,956 ($31,543,362); Prairie Provinces, $11,124,680 ($11,562,164); British Columbia, $5,367,594 ($4,416,364).

SALES OF MANUFACTURED AND NATURAL GAS

Sales of manufactured gas by distributing companies in Canada totalled 2,315,-827 M cubic feet in February as compared with 2,196,695 M in the corresponding month of last year, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Natural gas sold during the month amounted to 5,128,514 M cubic feet as compared with, 4,307,834 M in February, 1946.

MAN-HOURS AND HOURLY EARNINGS

Number of hourly-rated wage-earners employed in manufacturing at the beginning of February showed an increase of 2.1 per cent accompanied by a rise of 15.6 per cent in the hours reported, and also of 15.6 per cent in the aggregate hourly earnings, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. In large part, the gains were due to a return to a more normal situation following the year-end losses reflected in the statistics for January 1.

The 6,307 establishments furnishing data to the Bureau reported 750,518 hourly-rated employees at the date under review, when their hours aggregated 32,331,499. The sums paid to these workers at February 1 amounted to $24,669,122. At January 1 the indicated wage-earners numbered 734,876, the hours worked 27,967,071, and the weekly wages $21,334,481.

The hours worked, on the average, rose from 38.1 in the week of January 1 to 43.1 in that of February 1, when the average was practically the same as that of 43.2 at December 1. The mean at February 1, 1946, was 44.1, and that in the same week in 1945, 45.4.

Average hourly earnings in manufacturing, as at January 1, amounted to 76.3 cents. This figure exceeded the averages of 68.1 cents and 70.1 cents in the week of February 1, 1946, and February 1, 1945. The most recent hourly rates are the highest recorded in the comparatively brief period during which monthly statistics of man-hours and hourly earnings have been collected. As compared with February 1, 1946, there was an increase of 12 per cent, while that over February 1, 1945, amounted to 8.8 per cent.

Weekly wages in manufacturing as a whole averaged $32.89 at the date under review as compared with $29.07 in the holiday week ending January 1, 1947, and $32.18 in the week of December 1; at February 1 in 1946 and 1945, the weekly figures had been $31.83 and $30.03, respectively. The latest weekly average was the highest in the record. In the last twelve months the increase in weekly wages has amounted to 3.3 per cent, while the rise in the twenty-four months was 9.5 per cent.

PRODUCTION OF SAWN LUMBER

Production of sawn lumber in Canada in January -- excluding sawn ties -- amounted to 329,804 M feet board measure as compared with 334,090 M feet in the corresponding month last year, according to preliminary estimates published by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Increases in most of the provinces east of the Rockies have been offset by a decrease in British Columbia, resulting in a decline of 1.3 per cent for Canada as a whole.

Estimated production for the calendar year 1946 amounted to 4,776,208 M feet board measure as compared with 4,512,232 M feet in 1944, an increase of almost six per cent. Production in 1946 by mills east of the Rockies has been estimated by the Bureau at 2,741,022 M feet board measure as compared with 2,529,754 M feet in 1944, an increase of 8.4 per cent. Production in British Columbia mills has been estimated by the Timber Controller, Department of Reconstruction and Supply, at 2,168,460 M feet, including approximately 133,274 M feet of sawn ties; this leaves 2,035,186 M feet of sawn lumber, as compared with 1,982,478 M in 1944, a gain of 2.7 per cent.

CAR LOADINGS ON CANADIAN RAILWAYS

Due to the holiday on April 4, car loadings on Canadian railways declined to 66,777 cars from 70,203 cars for the preceding week, but were only 898 cars below the total of 67,675 cars for the 14th week last year; Good Friday was in the 16th week last year.

Despite the holiday, grain loadings showed a small increase during the week, and were only slightly below the total for last year. Coal loadings continued light in the eastern division and were down also in the western division.

Gasoline and oils increased from 2,611 cars in 1946 to 3,021 cars, and pulpwood and wood pulp and paper were both heavier than in 1946.

CIVIL AVIATION IN DECEMBER

Air carriers transported 57,448 revenue passengers during December as compared with 44,135 in December 1945, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. International traffic between Canada and the United States increased from 16,592 to 19,168 passengers, or by 15.5 per cent, and traffic between Canadian stations increased from 27,102 to 35,390 passengers, or by 30.5 per cent. Revenue freight increased from 1,065,847 to 1,458,775 pounds.

Ratio of revenue passenger miles to available seat miles for routes for which available seat miles are computed, showed an increase for the Canadian Pacific Air Lines from 30.5 per cent in November to 32.1 per cent, but the Trans-Canada Air Lines showed a decline from 61.9 to 56.8 per cent. Foreign carriers showed a slight improvement from 47.4 to 47.9 per cent. Ratios of scheduled aircraft miles flown to miles scheduled showed a decrease for international routes from 87.4 to 82.4 per cent, both Canadian and foreign carriers showing lower ratios. The weather is the main factor affecting these performances.

Canadian scheduled carriers reported a revenue for December of $1,572,809 as against $1,391,947 for December, 1945. Operating expenses increased from $1,273,-461 to $2,106,762, reducing the net operating revenue from a credit of $118,486 to a debit of $533,953. Non-scheduled carriers also showed the same trend and in-increased their operating loss from $16,296 in December 1945 to $122,784.

CONTRACT DIAMOND DRILLING IN CANADIAN MINING INDUSTRY

There were 74 firms engaged in contract diamond drilling of Canadian mineral deposits, other than fuels, during 1945 compared with 34 in 1944, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The income received from drilling operations completed by these firms in 1945 totalled $8,650,864 against $4,970,247 in the preceding year. The average number of employees in 1945 was estimated at 2,263 compared with 1,468 in 1944, and the amount of salaries and wages distributed totalled $3,-906,545 as against $2,461,813 in 1944.

Footage drilled in the Dominion by contractors during 1945 aggregated 5,262,-438 feet, of which 32 per cent was completed in Ontario, 41 per cent in Quebec, 17 per cent in British Columbia, and six per cent in the Northwest Territories. Contract drilling was also conducted in Nova Scotia, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and Yukon. The footage drilled in 1945 was the greatest to be recorded since 1938 when complete statistics on diamond drilling were first compiled. The value of borts, ballas, carbons, castset bits, etc., purchased in 1945 by diamond drilling contractors totalled $2,018,768 compared with $810,085 in 1944.

Not included in these figures are general statistics relating to diamond drilling conducted by Canadian companies with their own personnel and equipment.

FUR FARMS OF THE MARITIME PROVINCES

Revenues of fur farms in the Maritime Provinces from the sale of live fur-bearing animals and pelts in 1945 were $1,660,564, an increase of 1.3 per cent over the total for the preceding year, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Revenues from the sale of live animals totalled $223,720 as compared with $217,272 in 1944, while pelt revenues amounted to $1,-436,844 compared with $1,421,484. Prince Edward Island, with its large fox industry, had the largest revenue -- $782,337 -- followed by New Brunswick at $522,266, and Nova Scotia, $355,961.

There were 1,373 fur farms in operation during the year, representing capital value of plant and animals of $3,159,225. In 1944, 1,519 farms were recorded with a capital value of $2,959,277. Of the total capital, fur animals constitute the greater part, the value at the end of 1945 totalled $2,007,243, an increase of 12.5 per cent over 1944. Prince Edward Island accounted for 45.5 per cent, Nova Scotia 22 per cent and New Brunswick 32.5 per cent of the total value of the fur-bearers. These values were for 37,614 animals in 1945, and 35,432 in 1944.

FUR FARMING IN ONTARIO

Total revenue of fur farms in Ontario in 1945 was $2,525,501, an increase of 32 per cent over the 1944 figure, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The revenue from live animals was $447,455 as compared with $284,200 in 1944, and from pelts the revenue amounted to $2,078,046 as against $1,627,526 in 1944. With an increase in fur farms from 988 in 1944 to 1,089 in 1945, the capital value of plant and animals advanced from $3,394,259 to $5,415,918.

A slight decline in numbers and in total value of silver foxes on fur farms was more than offset by increases in numbers and in total value of blue foxes, platinum types, and white marked. The average value of silver foxes increased slightly from $52 to $53, but the average value of all other foxes declined. Standard mink also increased, but mutation mink declined in average value from $158 to $126.

FACTS OF INTEREST FROM BUREAU RECORDS

Sixteen of the 33 electric railway systems in Canada account for upwards of 90 per cent of the total passenger traffic on these systems, according to figures compiled by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The Montreal and Toronto systems together carry more than half.

Lobsters have been the most valuable of New Brunswick's commercial fishes during recent years. Next are sardines, previously first in value, followed by herring and cod.

Telephone conversations in Canada totalled over 3,210,280,000 during 1945, according to an estimate by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics based on counts of completed calls by the larger telephone systems. There were 1,848,794 telephones, completed calls averaging 1,736 per telephone and 265 per head of population.

Peat moss was produced in Canada to the value of $2,506,000 in 1946, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. British Columbia was the main producer with 51,889 pounds at $1,705,833; Quebec produced 18,672 pounds, Ontario 13,314 pounds, and New Brunswick and Manitoba small quantities.

REPORTS ISSUED DURING THE WEEK

1. Button, Buckle and Fasteners Industry, 1945 (25 cents).
2. Sales of Manufactured and Natural Gas, February (10 cents).
3. Contract Drilling in Canadian Mining Industry, 1945 (25 cents).
4. Stocks of Fruit and Vegetables, April 1 (10 cents).
5. Man-Hours and Hourly Earnings, February 1 (10 cents).
6. Cheques Cashed Against Individual Accounts, 1938-1946 (25 cents).
7. Cold Storage Holdings of Meat and Lard, April 1 (10 cents).
8. Fur Farms of the Maritime Provinces and Ontario, 1945 (10 cents).
9. Canadian Grain Statistics (10 cents).
10. Stocks of Grain on March 31, 1947 (10 cents).
11. Civil Aviation, December (10 cents).
12. Cold Storage Holdings of Fish, April 1 (10 cents).
13. Articles Imported from Each Country, (25 cents).
14. Production, Shipments and Stocks on Hand of Sawmills, January (10 cents).

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