D.B.S. WEEKLY BULLETIN

Dominion Bureau of Statistics

DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND COMMERCE

OTTAWA - CANADA

$1 a year

Vol. XV - No. 26 Saturday, June 28, 1947

DOMESTIC EXPORT TRADE IN MAY HIGHEST OF POST-WAR PERIOD

Showing a sharp advance of nearly $77,000,000 over April, Canada's domestic exports reached a new post-war high level for a month in May, when they were valued at $267,800,000, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The May figure compares with $197,000,000 for May last year and $295,000,000 for August, 1945, the last war-time month.

The high figure for May brought the aggregate for the year to $1,055,800,000 as compared with $896,100,000 in the first five months of 1946.

Exports to the United Kingdom during May rose to $90,481,000 as compared with $54,902,000 last year and were more than double the April value of $43,070,000, the aggregate for the five months being $276,444,000 as against $235,459,000 in the 1946 period.

Aggregate shipments to other British Empire countries also increased in May to $41,700,000 as compared with $29,900,000 last year. Major increases were in exports to New Zealand at $4,917,000 compared with $1,052,000 and Australia, $5,231,000 compared with $3,183,000; the five-months' figures in each case advancing to more than double last year's totals. There were substantial gains also in the value of shipments to Newfoundland, Barbados, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, and British Guiana, but decreases to the Union of South Africa and India.

May exports to the United States maintained the upward trend of the two previous months, being valued at $79,769,000 as against $72,200,000 in the same month of 1946 and brought the aggregate for the year to $400,007,000 compared with $329,950,000. Those to Latin America also increased to $10,178,000 from $6,828,000 in 1946, exports to Argentina rising to $2,011,000 as compared with $766,000 last year, Brazil to $2,347,000 compared with $1,404,000, and Colombia to $1,061,000 compared with $886,000. Aggregate for Latin America for the five months amounted to $55,055,000 as against $35,939,000 in the 1946 period.

Shipments to European countries also increased in May to $37,903,000 compared with $25,645,000 last year. Main advances were: Belgium, $4,937,000 compared with $3,607,000; France, $8,922,000 ($5,290,000); Italy, $6,448,000 ($694,000); Netherlands, $7,021,000 ($2,423,000); and Switzerland, $1,939,000 ($241,000). Decreases were recorded for Austria, Czechoslovakia, Greece, Poland and the Soviet Union.

Export values for each of the main commodity groups, except fibres and textiles, were higher than in May last year. Largest gain was in agricultural and vegetable products up to $76,034,000 compared with $53,013,000, mainly due to increases in wheat, flour, vegetables, rubber and tobacco. The animals and animal products group advanced moderately to $30,911,000 from $29,782,000, bacon and hams, milk products and eggs being higher, and furs lower.

Shipments of wood, wood products and paper increased to $69,683,000 compared with $48,765,000, all main items being higher with leading gains in planks and boards, newsprint, and wood pulp. The iron and products group rose to $29,298,000 as against $17,810,000, with largest increases in farm and other machinery and passenger automobiles. The non-ferrous metals group was valued at $35,408,000 compared with $23,814,000; aluminum, copper, lead, nickel and zinc showing increases, and electrical apparatus decreasing.

Non-metallic mineral exports were valued at $6,671,000 compared with $4,809,000; chemicals and allied products at $7,915,000 against $5,826,000; and miscellaneous commodites at $6,263,000, compared with $5,271,000. Fibres and textiles declined to $5,624,000 from $7,888,000 last year, due mainly to a lower value for wool and products.

CROP CONDITIONS IN THE PRAIRIE PROVINCES

Based upon conditions at the present time and barring the development of adverse weather and moisture conditions during the critical period between now and early August, prospects are good for at least an average crop in the Prairie Provinces this year according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Perhaps the most serious hazard the current crop may have to face is the possibility of frost damage. The stage of development of nearly all grains is from tend days to two weeks later than normal and the probability of damage from early frosts is thereby greatly increased.

Rainfall since April 1 is now above normal in Manitoba and approaching normal in Saskatchewan and Alberta. Moisture is fairly well distributed except in rather wide areas of central and northern Saskatchewan, and in parts of the Peace River country. Rains are now needed in these districts. Subsoil moisture reserves accumulated from precipitation last fall were generally above average. Pest infestations have not been overly severe to date but weed growth is heavy and loss from this source as well as from hail may yet be considerable.

Heavy rains have fallen over the greater part of Manitoba during the past week. One point reported just under seven inches while three to four inches of precipitation fell in a number of districts. Growing conditions have been good and crops are generally making very satisfactory progress, although the stage of development is still well behind normal for this time of year. Weed growth is very heavy this season and chemical control is being attempted in some districts. Fairly serious infestations of cutworms are reported at some points but the damage does not appear to be widespread. The rains have materially improved pasture condition and hay crop prospects.

Crop conditions in southern Saskatchewan are generally satisfactory with all crops continuing to make good growth. In central and northern areas, however, lack of surface moisture is holding up advancement and timely rains are required to promote growth. Subsoil moisture reserves in most areas are still reported sufficient. In a normal year the wheat crop would be well advanced in the shot blade stage but it is still behind normal with only a moderate part of the southern area having reached this stage. Spring frost damage is not considered to have been serious except in some fields of fall rye. While moderate wireworm damage to wheat on summerfallow is widespread throughout the open prairie area, reports do not indicate that loss of crops due to pest damage will reach serious proportions. Good progress is being made with summerfallow operations and about 50 per cent is now reported completed. Livestock and pastures generally are reported in fair to good condition except in northern areas.

Crops prospects in Alberta continue to be very favourable. Showers in most districts during the past week maintained satisfactory moisture conditions, except in the Peace River district where rain is required. Temperatures during the week remained somewhat below normal but crop progress generally was satisfactory. Crops are later than usual, with wheat averaging seven inches in height and about 20 per cent in the shot blade. Coarse grains are five inches above ground. Pastures are reported good to excellent. Hail storms ranged widely over southern and central Alberta during the week causing some damage to crops.

STOCKS OF CREAMERY BUTTER IN NINE PRINCIPAL CITIES

Stocks of creamery butter in nine of the principal cities of Canada on June 20 totalled 19,429,915 pounds compared with 15,721,792 on June 13, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Holdings were as follows by cities, totals for June 13 being in brackets: Quebec, 1,537,151 (1,152,112) pounds; Montreal, 9,651,076 (8,288,864); Toronto, 2,501,692 (2,043,915); Winnipeg, 2,472,879 (1,728,934); Regina, 202,174 (186,722); Saskatoon, 219,064 (244,689); Edmonton, 772,518 (711,131); Calgary, 481,951 (340,446); Vancouver, 1,591,410 (1,024,979).

PRODUCTION OF DOMESTIC ELECTRIC REFRIGERATORS MAINTAINED AT A HIGH LVEL IN APRIL

Production of domestic-type electric refrigerators was maintained at a high level in April when 8,531 units were produced as compared with 8,590 in the preceding month and 5,299 in the corresponding month last year, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. During the first four months of this year, 33,279 units were produced, more than double the total for the similar period of last year, when 15,167 were made.

STOCKS AND MARKETINGS OF WHEAT AND COARSE GRAINS

Stocks of Canadian wheat in store or in transit in North America at midnight on June 19 totalled 72,430,487 bushels as compared with 74,035,471 on June 12, and 50,-019,496 on the corresponding date last year, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Visible on the latest date comprised 72,422,487 bushels in Canadian positions and 8,000 in United States positions.

Deliveries of wheat from farms in the Prairie Provinces during the week ending June 19 totalled 6,841,629 bushels compared with 5,015,570 in the preceding week. During the elapsed portion of the present crop year -- August 1 to June 20 -- marketings from western farms aggregated 307,107,574 bushels compared with 222,532,873 in the similar period of 1945-46.

Following quantities of coarse grains aslo were delivered from farms in the Prairie Provinces during the week ending June 19, totals for the preceding week being in brackets: oats, 2,340,636 (2,050,659) bushels; barley, 1,418,824 (1,117,282); rye, 20,323 (20,369); flaxseed, 4,252 (3,810).

PRODUCTION OF WHEAT FLOUR IN MAY

Production of wheat flour was further increased in May, totalling 2,625,176 barrels, compared with 2,343,827 in the corresponding month last year, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Output for the ten months of the current crop year aggregated 23,756,295 barrels as against 22,087,548 in the similar period of 1945-46.

Wheat used in the production of flour in May amounted to 11,742,167 bushels, as against 10,400,404 in the same month last year. Total wheat milled during the ten months of the present crop year was 106,107,795 bushels compared with 98,257,692 in the same period of 1945-46. Stocks of wheat in flour mills at the end of May amounted to 6,068,526 bushels.

Millings of coarse grains during May were as follows, totals for May last year being in brackets: oats, 2,785,306 (2,698,977) bushels; corn, 145,914 (156,873); barley, 771,844 (778,945); mixed grain, 1,941,934 (1,978,145); buckwheat, nil (525).

DEPARTMENT STORE SALES 19 PER CENT HIGHER IN MAY

Sales of Canadian department stores in May were 19 per cent higher this year than last, and moved seven per cent above April, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The increase over May last year was of the same order as that for January. Sales in the first five months of 1947 were 15 per cent higher than in the same period of 1946. Unadjusted indexes of sales, on the base, 1935-1939=100, stood at 248.1 for May this year, 208.8 for May 1946, and 232.8 for April.

All regions of the country showed increases in May over the same month of last year. In Quebec the advance was 22 per cent, in the Maritime Provinces 15 per cent, and in Ontario, the Prairie Provinces and British Columbia, 19 per cent. All of the 19 departments for which separate comparisons are obtained showed increases. Among the more outstanding increases, apart from the continuing large gains for household durables, were those for men's wear and food, both of which were slightly more than 20 per cent.

PRODUCTION AND SALES OF RIGID INSULATING BOARD IN MAY

Production of rigid insulating board was further increased in May, the month's total standing at 17,013,051 square feet compared with 14,283,694 in the corresponding month last year, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. In the first five months of this year, 78,498,729 square feet were produced compared with 61,160,058 in the like period of 1946.

Domestic sales were also increased in May, totalling 12,473,615 square feet, compared with 12,128,093 in the same month last year. In the five months, January-May domestic sales aggregated 60,166,532 square feet compared with 52,841,671 in the same period of 1946.

FISH LANDINGS AND VALUES LOWER

Landings of sea food during the first five months of 1947 amounted to 301.3 million pounds, as compared with 308.2 million pounds during the same period in 1946, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The catch of the major Atlantic species -- cod, haddock and other groundfish -- was sharply lower as a result of the strike which kept the deep-sea fishing fleet in port throughout the first three months of the year. The lobster catch in the five month period amounted to 14,374,000 pounds being 27 per cent lower than that of the comparable period in 1946. This very substantial decrease was due mainly to the adverse weather conditions prevailing over a wide area of the Maritimes during the month of May.

Landed value for the first five months of 1947 was $11,791,000 as against $14,888,000 for the same period of 1946, the decrease being due to reduced landings of cod and lobster and to the lower prices for these same species. In 1935-39, the average returns up to the end of May amounted to only $4,061,000.

Significant changes in the percentages processed into the various forms include an apparent tendency to produce more of the salted forms of Atlantic cod, haddock and other groundfish; a tendency to increase the smoking of the species of cod caught off British Columbia, as well as of greater production of filleted products, as compared with the fresh and frozen dressed forms. In the case of Pacific herring, a substantially greater proportion of the catch was used for canning this year than in 1946, mainly at the expense of oil and meal production. A tendency towards a greater production of shucked meat in comparison with sales in the shell is reflected in the figures of other shellfish -- clams, oysters, etc. -- on both coasts.

The total value of fish products exported from Canada during the first four months of the year amounted to $26,279,941, as compared with $23,981,945 in the same period of 1946. Much of the increase is accounted for by greater shipments of relief type canned fish to European markets through UNRRA. Exports of cod and other groundfish fillets to the U. S. declined as a result of the reduction in available supplies. Imports of fish and fish products into Canada have never been large. Some increases are noted in imports of canned fish following the relaxation of controls over the importation of such products.

The index of wholesale prices of fishery products has declined progressively since the peak was reached in January of this year. Prices of fish products rose more sharply during the war period than did prices of meats and other foods. Prices received by fishermen show some declines in May 1947 as compared with May 1946, reflecting the greater availability of fish and other protein foods, the decline in abnormal wartime demand and the high level of inventories of frozen fish in Canada.

Stocks of frozen fish in Canada at June 1, 1947 total 29.4 million pounds, as compared with 24.0 million pounds at the same date in 1946. Increased stocks of halibut, salmon, herring and whitefish were mainly responsible for the overall increase.

PRODUCTION OF WIRE NAILS FURTHER INCREASED IN APRIL

Production of wire nails was further increased in April, amounting to 6,609 tons as compared with 6,524 in the preceding month and 6,276 in the corresponding month last year, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The month's total was the best since May 1946, when 6,730 tons were made. Output for the first four months of this year was 25,466 tons compared with 23,815 in the similar period of last year.

PRODUCTION OF STEEL WIRE AND FENCING IN APRIL

Production of steel wire in April was recorded at 27,759 tons, compared with 23,332 in the corresponding month last year, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. In the first four months of this year, 107,924 tons were made, as compared with 91,400 in the similar period of 1946.

Output of steel wire fencing in the month amounted to 2,631 tons, as compared with 2,473 in the same month last year. During the first four months of this year, 9,576 tons were made as compared with 8,854 in the same period of last year.

PRODUCTION OF DOMESTIC WASHING MACHINES REACHED HIGH POINT IN APRIL

Production of domestic washing machines reached an all-time monthly high in April when 16,975 units were turned out, as compared with 15,801 in the preceding month and 10,445 in the corresponding month last year, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. During the first four months of this year, 60,209 units were produced, as compared with 38,597 in the similar period of 1946.

New monthly records were established in April both for electric and gasoline models. The month's output of electric units was 14,495, compared with 13,577 in March, and 8,699 in April last year; production of gasoline models in the month was 1,938 compared with 1,877 in March and 1,095 in April a year ago. Hand models totalled 542 compared with 347 in March and 651 last year.

PRODUCTION OF COAL AND COKE

Production of coal in Canada was sharply reduced during March, mainly as a result of the strike in the coal mines of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The total for the month was 969,934 tons compared with 1,587,590 in March last year, a decrease of 39 per cent. Output for the first three months of this year was 3,779,058 tons, a drop of 25 per cent compared with the corresponding periodof last year.

Coke production in March totalled 308,000 tons, compared with 289,000 in the preceding month and 338,000 in March last year. In the first three months of this year 935,000 tons were produced as compared with 953,000 in the similar period of 1946.

Imports of coal into Canada during March declined 13 per cent as compared with the same month last year. During the month, 1,263,888 tons were imported making a total of 3,731,659 tons for the first three months of the year compared with 1,452,876 tons imported in March 1946, and 3,960,500 tons during the first three months of 1946.

PRODUCTION AND SALE OF ASPHALT ROOFING MATERIALS IN MAY

Production of asphalt shingles and rolled roofing was increased in May, totalling 502,365 squares as compared with 428,750 in the corresponding month last year, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Output of tar and asphalt felts and sheathing totalled 5,067 tons, as compared with 4,908.

Domestic sales of asphalt shingles and rolled roofing also were increased during the month, the total being 499,010 squares compared with 416,901 in the same month of last year. Sales of tar and asphalt felts and sheathing amounted to 4,619 tons, compared with 4,540.

FINANCING OF MOTOR VEHICLE SALES IN MAY

Canadian finance companies handled an increased volume of motor vehicle financing in May, the number of transactions being higher by 70 per cent in the case of new vehicles and 142 per cent for used vehicles than in May last year, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Motor vehicle financing in May exceeded that for April, but the upward movement between these last two months was confined to used vehicles.

A total of 4,072 new vehicles was financed for $5,753,895 in May compared with 2,394 for $2,812,818 in the same month last year. New passenger cars numbered 2,163 and had a financed value of $2,521,834, while 1,909 commercial models were financed for $3,232,061.

In the used vehicle field, transactions numbered 7,335 and the amount of financing involved was $4,563,884 compared with 3,027 units financed for $1,302,496 in May, 1946. Passenger cars, of which 5,501 units were financed for $3,028,527, accounted for the major portion of these.

INVENTORIES AND SHIPMENT BY MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES IN MARCH

Value of manufacturing inventories increased almost four per cent during March, according to returns received by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics from representative manufacturers. Finished goods inventory showed the largest increase -- seven per cent -- but there were increases in all stages. Manufacturers' shipments also moved up sharply and were nearly 10 per cent higher than February, the highest previous month. Higher prices undoubtedly made an important contribution to these increases but there was also some accumulation of goods in inventory and a definite rise in the volume of shipments.

On the inventory side a number of individual industries showed an increase of 10 per cent or more during the month. Among these were rubber goods; miscellaneous foods (tea, coffee, etc.,); cotton yarn and cloth; cordage, rope and twine; shipbuilding and repairs; sheet metal products; and miscellaneous iron and steel products. Numerous other industries showed increases ranging from five to eight per cent. A small number of industries showed some decline in the value of inventories held. In some industries, the movement may be largely seasonal in character but there is not yet sufficient information to indicate where this is the case.

Advances in the value of shipments have also been widely distributed. Some of the largest gains have been registered in some of the textile groups, notably factory clothing and silk and silk goods, and in some of the iron and steel industries and in non-ferrous metals. While some of these gains may be seasonal in character many of them indicate an advance to higher production levels. Thus in the electrical apparatus and supplies industry shipments have risen steadily since last October and by March they were 50 per cent higher.

This seems to indicate that in a number of industries higher production levels and more adequate raw material supplies are allowing manufacturers to begin building up their inventories to more normal working levels, but in view of the rising level of shipments there is little evidence of any piling up of goods in the manufacturers' hands. An unusually late spring with severe March weather in many parts of the country may have been a factor in causing a somewhat larger rise in inventories than had occurred in previous months, but the sharp advance in wholesale prices during February and March was also important.

OPERATING RESULTS OF INDEPENDENT GROCERY STORES IN 1945

Independent grocery stores operated on a gross margin which amounted to 14.1 per cent of total net sales in 1945, according to figures received by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics from 1,594 stores. In 1944, when fewer stores reported, gross trading profits were 14.2 per cent of net sales. Average net sales in 1945 of the stores included in the survey were $32,356, with gross trading profits of $4,562.

Operating expenses per store, including such items as employees' salaries, advertising, store supplies, bad debts, occupancy expenses, etc., averaged $2,580 per store, or eight per cent of average net sales. Net profits, before deduction of proprietors' salaries and income tax, worked out at $1,982 per store, or 6.1 per cent of net sales, compared with 6.3 per cent in 1944.

The figures further show that as the volume of business increased, the ratio of net profits to sales in grocery stores followed a downward trend. This apparent loss was compensated for by an increased rate of stock turnover on a larger volume of business. Salaries and wages paid to employees followed a definite upward trend as the size of business increased. Occupancy costs decreased in ratio to sales volume and other items remained fairly constant.

Rented stores in all business-size brackets maintained a greater margin than did owned stores. The greater expense costs in rented premises offset the marginal advantage to result in net profit ratios close to those in owned stores. Generally, both gross and net profits were greater in large than in small localities. Advertising expenses and rentals formed a greater proportion of net sales in the largest localities, while other expenses showed little difference in relation to locality size.

FARM WAGE RATES

Scarcity of labour and the maintenance of a high level of farm income has pushed the May wage rates for farm workers to their highest level since comparable statistics became available in 1940, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. With the month of August usually marking the high point for farm wages in any year, it is significant that current May wages in many provinces were approximately the same as those prevailing at August 15, 1946.

Except in the case of monthly wages with board, British Columbia led the Dominion, rates in Prince Edward Island being lowest. The average rates for Canada as reported at May 15 were $3.59 per day and $77.01 per month where the employer provided the board as compared with rates of $3.25 and $71.36, respectively at the same date a year ago. Where the employee provided his own board, the average rates were $4.55 per day and $103.96 per month, respectively, as against $4.15 and $96.27 at May 15, 1946.

AREA SOWN TO FIELD CROPS IN SASKATCHEWAN

Area sown to field crops in Saskatchewan in 1946 was 22,349,278 acres, an increase of 13.2 per cent over 1941, and 1.7 per cent more than in 1936, according to a compilated of Prairie Census returns by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Total wheat acreage was 14,085,147, an increase of 15.5 per cent over 1941, but a decrease of 4.5 per cent in the ten-year period since 1936. Acreage sown to spring wheat, other than durum, was 13,695,001, an increase of 13 per cent over 1941, but 4.1 per cent lower than in 1936.

Barley acreage was 2,317,152 in 1946, showing an increase of 39.7 per cent over 1941, and an increase of 78 per cent in the ten-year period since 1936. Acreage seeded to oats for grain at 4,328,679, shows an increase when compared with 1941 of 7.5 per cent, but a decline of 7.6 per cent since 1936. While there has been a sharp decrease in the acreage sown to fall rye since 1941, this has been partly offset by an increase in spring rye, but the total for all rye at 405,483 acres, shows a decrease of 23 per cent.

Area sown to flax in 1946 was 454,783, a decrease of 34 per cent when compared with 1941, but an increase of 24.2 per cent over 1936. There was a larger acreage of cultivated hay in 1946, the total at 459,677 acres being 6.8 per cent more than in 1941, and 81.6 per cent more than in 1936. Acreage sown to potatoes was considerably reduced at 26,966 acres, compared with 35,954 in 1941, and 46,077 in 1936.

AREA OF OCCUPIED FARM LAND
IN MANITOBA IN 1946

Area of occupied farm land in Manitoba in 1946 was 16,872,535 acres, showing a slight decrease of one-tenth of one per cent from 1941, but an increase of 7.7 per cent over 1936, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Total of improved land was 9,785,812 acres, and of unimproved land, 7,086,723 acres.

Total improved land shows a decrease of 43,362 acres or 0.4 per cent when compared with 1941, but an increase of 930,826 acres, or 10.5 per cent in the ten-year period since 1936. The area under crops was 6,442,226 in 1946, an increase of 114,-259 acres, or 1.8 per cent, and 318,556 acres or 5.2 per cent when compared with 1941 and 1936, respectively.

Area of unimproved land in 1946 was 7,086,723 acres, an increase of 24,575 acres, or 0.3 per cent when compared with 1941, and an increase of 272,782, or four per cent when compared with 1936.

APRIL CONSUMPTION OF RUBBER

Consumption of natural rubber by manufacturers in April amounted to 2,476 long tons as compared with 2,440 in March, synthetic rubber 2,942 long tons compared with 2,876, and reclaim 1,395 long tons compared with 1,570, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Domestic production of synthetic rubber during the month totalled 4,628 long tons compared with 4,466, and of reclaim, 360 long tons, unchanged from March.

DWELLING UNITS IN FIRST QUARTER 1947

There were 5,263 new dwelling units completed during the first three months of this year in 242 municipalities making complete returns for the period to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. These municipalities have approximately 66 per cent of the aggregate population of the 623 municipalities covered in the Bureau's survey of housing.

Owing to variation in the number of municipalities supplying data on housing each month, these figures do not correspond with those received for the same period in 1946 and no comparison is therefore possible. Complete returns for both years from 57 of those reporting, however, show a total of 2,128 this year as against 2,160 in the first quarter of 1946.

CAR LOADINGS ON CANADIAN RAILWAYS

Car loadings on Canadian railways for the week ended June 14 amounted to 78,109 cars as compared with 79,165 in the preceding week and 69,208 in the corresponding week last year, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

Loadings of grain increased from 4,816 cars in 1946 to 8,689 cars, but was approximately 500 cars below the loadings for each of the two preceding weeks. Live stocks declined from 2,063 cars in 1946 to 1,760. Coal increased over the previous week by 264 cars, but had not reached the 1946 level in the eastern division.

Ores and concentrates increased from 2,562 cars last year, to 3,387; pulpwood increased from 4,349 to 4,801 cars, lumber from 3,461 to 4,394 cars, gasoline and oils from 3,423 to 4,186 cars, and l.c.l. merchandise from 17,298 to 18,359 cars.

HIGHWAY TRAFFIC AT CANADIAN BORDER POINTS

International automobile traffic through Canadian customs ports showed an increase during the month of May, with volume particularly heavy for the Empire Day and Memorial Day week-ends, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Total traffic reached 657,816 vehicles, compared with 594,327 in May last year, and was comprised of nearly 462,000 foreign car entries and 196,000 returning Canadian cars. The foreign aggregate represented 330,240 non-permit cars, 114,875 taking out tourist permits, and 16,827 United States commercial vehicles, while Canadian cars returning were 165,239 on short stays, 15,287 over 24 hours abroad, and 15,348 commercial vehicles.

Entries of American tourist cars in May exceeded the same month of 1946 for the first time this year, the total of 114,875 comparing with 105,499 in 1946, and was a new record for the month. Canadian motorists continue to tour in the United States in considerable numbers, the total of the 24 hour class increasing slightly from 15,251 in May last year to 15,287, but still well below pre-war levels.

Short term American traffic inward aggregated 330,240 vehicles compared with about 296,000 in May 1946, an increase of 11.6 per cent, while United States commercial vehicles declined from 18,794 to 16,827. Canadian cars on visits of under 24 hours were 165,239, compared with 146,250, an increase of 13 per cent, while the crossings of commercial vehicles of Canadian registry advanced 22 per cent to 15,348.

By province of entry, foreign tourist cars during May registered advances over the same month of last year into all areas except Saskatchewan. Tourist traffic into the Maritimes was encouraged somewhat by the resumption of steamship service to Nova Scotia from the Eastern Seaboard; the total for the area at 5,753 compares with 5,303. Quebec entries were nearly 20,500, an increase of over 13 per cent.

The Ontario total at 69,044 compared with 65,578, while in the Prairie Provinces entries totalled 3,400 compared with 2,976. British Columbia continued to show improvement over 1946, the May total of 16,101 comaring with 13,497 last year, a rise of over 19 per cent.

SALES OF MANUFACTURED AND NATURAL GAS

Sales of manufactured gas by distributing companies in April totalled 2,110,145 M cubic feet, compared with 2,028,054 in the corresponding month last year, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Aggregate for the first four months of this year was 9,006,475 M cubic feet, compared with 8,658,444 M in the similar period of 1946. Natural gas sales in April were 3,625,528 M cubic feet, compared with 2,762,547 M in the same month of last year. Total for the first four months of the year was 18,712,-376 M cubic feet as against 15,083,201 M in the like period of 1946.

RELIGIOUS DENOMINATIONS IN CANADA IN 1941

Roman Catholic constituted the most numerous religious group in Canada in 1941, accounting for 43.4 per cent of the total population, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The United Church of Canada, formed in 1925 by the fusion of the Methodists and Congregationalists with a large section of the Presbyterians, was the second largest religious body in the Dominion with 19.3 per cent of the whole population. Anglicans ranked third with 15.2 per cent, continuing Presbyterians fourth with 7.2 per cent, Baptists fifth with 4.2 per cent, Lutherans sixth with 3.5 per cent, and Jews seventh with 1.5 per cent of the total. In addition, there are many smaller religious groups. Adherents to those smaller denominations made up about seven per cent of the total for all denominations in 1941.

The larger religious denominations in Canada have a national distribution although their relative proportions in different parts of the country vary widely. Many of the smaller denominations are distinctly localized geographically, due mainly, to the concentration of persons of certain ethnic origins in certain areas.

Quebec is predominantly Roman Catholic with 86.8 per cent of its population adhering to that faith in 1941. A further 4.9 per cent were Anglicans; 3.0 per cent, United Church; 2.0 per cent, Jewish; and 1.7 per cent, Presbyterians.

In the Maritimes, too, the principal religious denomination is Roman Catholic, although adherents to this faith in 1941 formed a considerably lower proportion of the total than in Quebec. 48.2 per cent of New Brunswick's population were Roman Catholics; 19.4 per cent, Baptists; 13.8 per cent, United Church; and 12.1 per cent, Anglicans. In Nova Scotia, 32.7 per cent of the population were Roman Catholics; 21.6 per cent, United Church; 17.9 per cent, Anglicans, and 15.5 per cent Baptists. In Prince Edward Island, 45.1 per cent of the population were Roman Catholics; 25.3 per cent, United Church; 15.5 per cent, Presbyterians, and 5.7 per cent, Baptists.

In Ontario, 28.4 per cent of the population were United Church; 22.6 per cent, Roman Catholics; 21.6 per cent, Anglicans; and 11.5 per cent, Presbyterians.

In the Prairie Provinces, the United Church ranked first with 26.6 per cent of the population in Manitoba; 25.8 per cent in Saskatchewan; 24.4 per cent in Alberta. Roman Catholics were second, with 18.9, 22.5 and 19.1 per cent in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, respectively, and Anglicans third with 17.2, 13.2, and 14.3 per cent. If Greek Catholics are included with Roman Catholics, the latter ranks ahead of United Church in Manitoba and Saskatchewan but not in Alberta. Adherents to the smaller denominations show a higher proportion of the total in the Prairie Provinces than elsewhere in Canada.

Of British Columbia's population, 30.1 per cent were Anglicans, 24.6 per cent, United Church; and 13.4 per cent Roman Catholics. Adherents to the smaller denominations formed a somewhat smaller proportion of the total than in the Prairie Provinces but a much larger proportion than in the East.

In the Yukon and Northwest Territories, Anglicans formed the largest single denomination with 51.8 per cent and 45.6 per cent of the respective populations. Roman Catholics were almost as numerous as Anglicans in the Northwest Territories, comprising 43.2 per cent of the total in 1941.

REPORTS ISSUED DURING THE WEEK

1. Canadian Fisheries Statistics, May (10 cents)
2. Rigid Insulating Board Industry, May (10 cents).
3. Highway Traffic at Canadian Border Points, May (10 cents).
4. Area of Field Crops, Saskatchewan, 1946 (10 cents).
5. Railway Revenue Freight Loadings, May (10 cents).
6. Car Loadings on Canadian Railways - Weekly (10 cents).
7. Area and Condition of Occupied Farm Land, Manitoba, 1946 (10 cents).
8. Steel Wire, April (10 cents).
9. Wire Fencing, April (10 cents).
10. Domestic Washing Machines, April (10 cents).
11. Domestic Type Electric Refrigerators, April (10 cents).
12. Nails, Tacks and Staples, April (10 cents).
13. Dwelling Units and New Buildings Containing Dwelling Units, Three Months Ending March, 1947 (25 cents).
14. Religious Denominations in Canada, 1871 - 1941 (25 cents).
15. Consumption, Production and Inventories of Rubber, April (10 cents).
16. Department Store Sales, May (10 cents).
17. Canadian Milling Statistics - Weekly (10 cents).
18. Canadian Grain Statistics - Weekly (10 cents).
19. Coal and Coke Statistics, March (10 cents).
20. Farm Wage Rates, May 15, 1497 (10 cents).
21. Summary of Cold Storage Reports, 1946 (25 cents).
22. Articles Exported to Each Country, Three Months Ended March (25 cents).
23. Trade of Canada: Domestic Exports, May (10 cents).
24. Civil Aviation, February (10 cents).
25. Financing of Motor Vehicle Sales, May (10 cents).
26. Operating Results of Retail Food Stores, 1945 (25 cents).
27. Asphalt Roofing Industry, May (10 cents).
28. Inventories and Shipments by Manufacturing Industries, March (10 cents).
29. Wooden Refrigerator Industry, 1945 (10 cents).
30. Sales of Manufactured and Natural Gas, April (10 cents).
31. Telegraphic Crop Report, Prairie Provinces, (10 cents).

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