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CONDITION OF CANADIAN CROPS

Generally good conditions have been maintained in the Prairie Provinces with heavy rains in Manitoba, Alberta and eastern, southern and south-western Saskatchewan building up excellent moisture reserves, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Rains, however, are needed in much of central, northern and north-western Saskatchewan and in parts of the Peace River country.

In Manitoba, heavy general rains have built up moisture reserves and caused floods in the Assiniboine Valley and in the Dauphin area. While damage is considerable in the flooded areas, the ample moisture provided has further improved prospects in the remainder of the province. The stage of development of most crops is still well behind last year but wheat, oats and barley are making heavy stands.

Recent rains and higher temperatures have promoted rapid growth in most of eastern, southern and south-western Saskatchewan. Immediate rains are, however, urgently needed over large parts of central, west-central and north-western districts. Wheat is slightly over 20 per cent in shot blade for the province as a whole as compared with 45 per cent at this date last year. Hail storms have caused considerable damage in widely scattered local areas. Prospects now range from very good in the south generally to fair and poor for some of the central, northern and north-western districts.

Crop prospects in Alberta continue to be very favourable in most districts. Heavy rains in southern and central districts and showers in the northern districts have maintained satisfactory moisture conditions, except in the Peace River districts, where a good general rain is needed. Pastures are in excellent condition and prospects for the hay crop are good.

Seeding of cereals is practically completed in Quebec and with warmer weather during the past two weeks, growth has been rapid. Many fields in some sections, however, will be left unsown. Pastures are growing rapidly and haying will commence this week in the western section of the province.

In Ontario, the past two weeks have been generally warm and dry and most crops have shown some improvement. The outlook for spring grains, however, is still considered poor as the acreage is down considerably and crops are as much as three weeks later than normal. A substantial acreage will be summerfallowed due to the inability to get crops planted at the normal time. The fall wheat crops appear to be variable with the average yield for the province likely to be slightly below normal. Pastures have shown recent improvement and haying started last week in southern areas. Yields are variable and range from fair to good.

In British Columbia, frequent rains have interfered with haying in some sections but growth of most crops has been good. Pastures, grains and ensilage corn are generally satisfactory and vegetable crops and orchard fruits are developing well. The frequent rains, however, have caused considerable damage to the cherry crops.

There has been considerable improvement in crop prospects throughout the Maritime Provinces during the past two weeks. Warmer weather has brought all crops on rapidly and enabled farmers to complete late planting. Cereal crops are growing well and an average potato crop is looked for.

WORLD WHEAT SITUATION

As new information concerning the growing crops comes forward the over-all supply picture is changed in some respects, but, the concensus of opinion still is that there will be a ready market for all wheat harvested during the next crop year at least, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics notes in its monthly review of the wheat situation. The huge United States crop, currently estimated at 1,410 million bushels is, perhaps, the brightest spot in the supply picture at the moment. The exportable surplus which may accrue from this crop has been variously estimated at from 350 to 500 million bushels, depending upon the weight given to factors such as the size of the new corn crop, the transport situation, and the prospects for the 1948 crop next spring when it is time to decide how low a carry-over may be commensurate with safety.

While it is too early to hazard a quantitative estimate of the Canadian wheat crop, current conditions are such that at least an average crop is a very distinct possibilty. Seeding conditions have been generally good in the Argentine but no indication of the probable acreage is available. Reports from Australia suggest that wheat acreage there may reach 15 million acres and that crops prospects are fairly good in all states except Victoria where the newly planted crops are badly in need of heavy rains. Crop conditions have recently improved in the Balkans and optimistic reports from Russia have revived speculation as to whether that country may become a wheat exporter in the near future. While no reliable estimates as to seeded acreages in the U.S.S.R. are available, it is interesting to note that recent press reports speak of trade negotiations between Great Britain and Russia, whereby the former hopes to obtain Soviet wheat and timber in return for certain concessions in respect to repayment of a loan made to Russia early in the war.

Less favourable reports are received from India where the crop estimate has been still further reduced due to rust. Wheat production in Holland, Sweden, France, Spain, Italy, the United Kingdom and many other areas will almost certainly be below average, and world import requirements will still be very heavy. In recognition of this and in response to a request from the International Emergency Food Council, the Director-General of F.A.O. has called a Special Cereals Conference in Europe to discuss courses of action which might be taken by member governments to ensure the maximum collection and efficient distribution of supplies of cereals.

STOCKS AND MARKETINGS OF WHEAT AND COARSE GRAINS

Stocks of Canadian wheat in store or in transit in North America at midnight on June 26 amounted to 70,412,834 bushels compared with 72,430,487 on June 19, and 47,-008,981 on the corresponding date last year, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Visible on the latest date comprised 70,404,834 bushels in Canadian positions and 8,000 bushels in United States positions.

Deliveries of wheat from farms in the Prairie Provinces during the week ending June 26 totalled 7,077,730 bushels compared with 6,917,953 in the preceding week. Total for the elapsed portion of the crop year -- August 1 to June 26 -- was 314,261,-628 bushels compared with 225,604,782 in the like period of the preceding crop year.

Following quantities of coarse grains also were delivered from farms in the Prairie Provinces during the week ending June 27, totals for the preceding week being in brackets: oats, 1,909,241 (2,410,148) bushels; barley, 1,115,038 (1,452,514); rye, 13,010 (28,958); flaxseed, 1,731 (4,260).

STOCKS OF BUTTER AND CHEESE

Stocks of creamery butter in nine of the principal cities of Canada on July 1 were 25,373,105 pounds, compared with 11,464,673 on June 1, and 20,622,990 on the corresponding date last year, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Cheese stocks totalled 20,468,291 pounds, compared with 11,815,291 on June 1, and 27,995,347 a year ago.

Following were the July 1 stocks of creamery butter held in the nine cities totals for the same date last year being in brackets: Quebec, 2,320,998 (2,692,115); Montreal, 11,917,534 (7,719,750); Toronto, 2,889,267 (2,866,448); Winnipeg, 3,753,427 (3,327,402); Regina, 251,134 (213,639); Saskatoon, [illegible],164 (196,378); Edmonton, 983,763 (768,912); Calgary, 667,938 (731,371); Vancouver, 2,313,[illegible] (2,106,975).

SALES OF FLUID MILK AND CREAM

Fluid milk sales in April were estimated at 281,531,000 pounds as compared with 303,164,000 in the corresponding month last year, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Fluid cream sales for the month were 59,868,000 pounds as against 53,190,000.

Among the larger Canadian cities, fluid milk sales in Montreal during April amounted to 12,643,000 quarts, showing a decline of six per cent from April last year. In Toronto, sales were 11,451,000 quarts, down 6.3 per cent from last year.

In Winnipeg, fluid milk sales were 3,599,000 quarts, a decrease of 7.4 per cent; Vancouver, 4,248,000 quarts, a decrease of 13.9 per cent; Ottawa-Hull, 3,020,000 quarts, down 4.7 per cent; Hamilton, 2,372,000 quarts, down 11.7 per cent; and Quebec, 2,302,000 quarts, down 2.6 per cent.

OUTPUT OF MAPLE PRODUCTS
MUCH HIGHER THIS YEAR

Production of maple syrup and sugar this year was much greater than in the preceding season, being estimated at 3,580,000 gallons of syrup and 3,434,000 pounds of sugar, compared with 1,889,000 gallons of syrup and 2,543,000 pounds of sugar in 1946, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The syrup crop was the largest since 1924 but sugar production was five per cent smaller than the ten-year 1936-45 average.

Demand for syrup was exceedingly strong and with controls not longer in effect, prices started off at a high level. Reports of sales as high as $6.00 per gallon were not unusual. As the crop began to move to market in volume, prices droppped sharply, but the seasonal average was considerably higher than in 1946. The bulk of the crop moved direct to consumer and much smaller proportion was sold to syrup processors. Purchases of syrup by bottling firms were about 50 per cent below the 1946 level and the quantities of sugar obtained were also down sharply. The value of the crop, including syrup and sugar, is estimated at $14,139,000, or 125 per cent more than in 1946.

Production of maple syrup and sugar was as follows by provinces, with comparable figures for 1946 in brackets: Quebec, 2,831,00 (1,638,000) gallons, sugar 3,260,000 (2,448,000) pounds; Ontario, syrup 717,000,(235,000) gallons, sugar 67,000 (7,000) pounds; New Brunswick, syrup 23,000 (10,000) gallons, sugar, 93,000 (68,000) pounds; Nova Scotia, syrup 9,000 (6,000) gallons, sugar 14,000 (20,000) pounds.

ESIMATES OF FRUIT CROPS

In the two major producing provinces of Nova Scotia and British Columbia the first apple esimtates by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics indicate reductions of 30 and 22 per cent, respectively. In Ontario, on the other hand, an increase of 43 per cent is anticipated. Pears and plums will be lighter than in 1946, but the complete estimates are not available.

Peach production will be down, due to the poor set of fruit in Ontario. Production in British Columbia is expected to be 15 per cent better than in 1946, while the Ontario crop will be 45 per cent lighter. Apricts, which are produced commercially only in British Columbia, are practically the same as a year ago at 145,000 bushels.

Overall cherry production is down to the poor set of fruit in Ontario. In British Columbia an increase of five per cent is anticipated at present. Reports on the grape crop are not complete but in Ontario, where the bulk of this fruit is grown, production is expected to be about the same as last year.

PASSENGERS CARRIED BY TRANSIT SYSTEMS

The number of passengers carried by urban transit systems -- electric cars and motor buses -- during February increased from 123,084,167 in 1946 to 126,639,034, increases being recorded in New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario, Alberta, and British Columbia, and decreases in the other provinces, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Interurban systems also showed an increase from 6,581,-692 to 7,118,392 passengers. Revenues of urban systems increased from $7,473,673 to $7,617,514, and for interurban systems increased from $2,033,584 to $2,036,422.

FURTHER SHARP DECREASE IN NUMBER OF HORSES ON FARMS OF SASKATCHEWAN

Further sharp decrease in the number of horses on Saskatchewan farms between 1941 and 1946 is revealed in preliminary figures of the 1946 Prairie Census released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, which place the total at 570,439 as compared with 800,693, a decline of 28.8 per cent. In 1936, there were 898,323, the ten-year decrease being 36.5 per cent. Value of Saskatchewan's farm horses on June 1 last year was $22,423,984, compared with $39,811,869 in 1941, and $59,089,427 in 1936.

Saskatchewan's cattle population on June 1, 1946 was 1,498,983 compared with 1,241,145 in 1941, and 1,534,951 ten years earlier. Value of cattle, however, showed a large increase, totalling $87,595,413 compared with $43,761,751 in 1941, and $26,477,603 in 1936.

Sheep numbers in 1946 were placed at 334,636, showing an increase of 1.4 per cent over 1941, but a decrease of 2.2 per cent from 1936. Preliminary figures on swine place the number at 523,281, a decrease of 44.6 per cent and 21.5 per cent from 1941 and 1936, respectively.

Poultry population in 1946 was 4.1 per cent above 1941 and 17.6 per cent higher than in 1936, chiefly due to marked increases in hens and chickens, which totalled 10,599,228 compared with 9,731,038 in 1941, and 8,862,326 in 1936. There has been a sharp reduction of 39.8 per cent in the number of turkeys when compared with 1941, but the number was still 1.6 per cent more than in 1936. Actual totals were 596,978 in 1946, and 991,731 in 1941, and 587,391 in 1936.

SECURITIES TRADE IN APRIL

The total volume of security trade between Canada and all other countries in April was $25,100,000 -- less than half the March total, and the smallest monthly figure since November 1944, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Sales and purchases were approximately equal at $12,500,000 each. Net purchase balance for the first four months of 1947 was $5,000,000, against net sales of $85,800,000 in January-April, 1946.

Net sales of securities to the United States in April were $700,000, total sales amounting to $11,900,000 and total purchases, $11,200,000. Securities trade with the United Kingdom was slightly less than in March, purchases at $800,000 being four times as large as sales. The volume of trade with other countries continued to decline from the January peak, and was about the 1946 average -- $400,000 in sales and $500,000 in purchases.

INDEX NUMBERS OF WHOLESALE PRICES

General index number of wholesale prices, on the base 1926=100, was 125.3 for May, compared with 122.9 for April, and 109.0 for May last year, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Sub-group indexes were as follows, those for April being in brackets: vegetable products, 111.4 (110.6); animal products, 128.0 (124.5); textile products, 123.9 (121.2); wood products, 161.0 (153.8); iron products, 133.7 (133.5); non-ferrous metals, 115.1 (115.8); non-metallic minerals, 111.4 (108.3); chemical products, 103.9 (103.9).

LUMBER PRODUCTION ESTIMATES

Canadian production of sawn lumber -- excluding sawn ties -- amounted to 351,-945 M feet board measure as compared with 404,829 M in the preceding month and 328,-477 M in the corresponding month last year, according to estimates released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Estimated output for the first four months of this year was 1,455,603 M feet compared with 1,390,601 a year ago.

Production in April was as follows by provinces in M feet, totals for April last year being in brackets: Prince Edward Island, 1,272 (1,258); Nova Scotia, 22,000 (18,231); New Brunswick, 19,758 (17,906); Quebec, 47,105 (58,166); Ontario, 28,066 (27,082); Manitoba, 7,426 (4,067); Saskatchewan, 5,530 (7,363); Alberta, 6,811 (7,537); British Columbia, 213,977 (186,867).

CHEQUES CASHED IN MAY

Cheques cashed in May recorded a considerable increase over the corresponding month of last year, the total being $6,841 million compared with $6,116 million, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Thirty-one of the thirty-three clearing centres recorded advances over last year, the exceptions being Halifax and Victoria. The aggregates for each of the five economic areas except the Maritime Provinces were considerably greater in this comparison.

Thirty of the thirty-three clearing centres showed increases in the first five months of 1947 over the same period of last year. The total was $30,434 million against $28,875 million, representing an increase of 5.4 per cent. Each of the five economic areas showed advances except Ontario where the situation was affected by declines in Ottawa and Toronto.

Cheques cahsed against individual accounts in May were as follows by economic areas, totals for the corresponding month of last year being in brackets: Maritime Provinces, $144,466,962 ($176,033,234); Quebec, $2,260,070,094 ($1,884,734,270); Ontario, $2,760,774,925 ($2,543,943,957); Prairie Provinces, $1,091,524,963 (1,010,-945,593); British Columbia, $584,314,754 ($499,985,820).

OPERATING RESULTS OF COUNTRY GENERAL STORES IN 1945

Country general stores operated on a gross margin of 15.4 per cent of net sales, according to returns received by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics from 560 of these establishments located in the smaller towns and rural areas. This was slightly greater than the 14.7 per cent margin shown for 1944 when fewer stores reported. Average dollar sales of the stores included in the survey were $42,492, and gross trading profits, $6,546.

In 1945, operating expenses per store averaged $3,632, or 8.6 per cent of net sales as compared with 8.1 per cent in 1944. The advance in expenses resulted in average net profits, before deduction of proprietors' salaries and income taxes, of $2,914, or 6.8 per cent of average net sales, as compared with 6.6 per cent in 1944.

With the exception of the largest size store, net profits decreased in ratio to sales as business volume expanded. Gross profits were irregular in trend for the different size of business classes. Because of the difference in business volume, the dollar value of net earnings was much greater in the larger stores.

DEALERS' STOCKS OF NON-FERROUS SCRAP METAL

Dealers' stocks of non-ferrous scrap metal were lower at the end of April than at the first of the month, with the exception of nickel which rose from 229,083 pounds to 245,001, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Following were the April 30 stocks of the metals showing decreases, April 1 totals being in brackets: aluminum, 4,038,200 (4,750,958); magnesium, 116,966 (121,975); tin-lead, 5,508,710 (5,526,602); zinc, 1,056,130 (1,227,235); drosses, 1,577,698 (1,749,613), brass and bronze, 5,327,678 (5,411,672); copper, 3,214,249 (4,013,893).

PRODUCTION OF COPPER IN APRIL

Production of new copper in all forms in April amounted to 40,483,584 pounds, compared with 41,960,678 in March, and 31,886,954 in April last year, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. During the four months ended April, 140,471,444 pounds were produced compared with 123,950,427 in the like period of 1946.

OUTPUT OF NICKEL IN APRIL

Production of nickel in all forms in April was recorded at 20,043,186 pounds, compared with 20,028,671 in the preceding month and 18,479,626 in the same month last year, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. During the four months ended April, 76,663,495 pounds were produced compared with 60,429,960 in the corresponding period of 1946.

PRODUCTION OF SILVER IN APRIL

Output of silver was reduced in April, the total being 853,667 fine ounces, compared with 1,044,239 in the preceding month and 1,055,917 in the corresponding month last year, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Total for the first four months of this year was 3,557,954 fine ounces compared with 4,467,-692 in the similar period of 1946.

OUTPUT OF PRIMARY LEAD

Primary production of lead in April amounted to 25,850,461 pounds compared with 28,850,117 in the preceding month and 30,864,007 in the corresponding month last year, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. During the first four months of this year, 105,124,657 pounds were produced, compared with 126,-697,870 in the similar period of 1946.

PRODUCTION OF ZINC IN APRIL

Production of primary zinc in all forms in April amounted to 36,341,332 pounds, compared with 33,926,907 in the preceding month and 41,594,847 in April 1946, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. During the four months, January-April, 137,359,854 pounds were produced, compared with 166,070,405 in the similar period of 1946.

CAR LOADINGS ON CANADIAN RAILWAYS

Car loadings for the week ended June 21 reached a new high record for the year at 81,409 cars, as compared with 78,109 cars for the preceding week, and 71,096 cars for the corresponding week last year, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Total loadings in the eastern division increased from 48,952 cars last year to 54,149, and in the western division increased from 22,144 to 27,260 cars.

Loadings of grain increased from 5,494 cars in 1946 to 9,088 cars; grain products from 3,126 to 3,669 cars; ores and concentrates from 2,810 to 3,260 cars; sand, stone, gravel, from 4,517 to 4,993 cars; other mine products from 862 to 1,548 cars; pulpwood from 4,237 to 5,068 cars; lumber from 3,561 to 4,947 cars; gasoline and oils from 3,427 to 4,242 cars; and l.c.l. merchandise from 17,532 to 18,410 cars.

REPORTS ISSUED DURING THE WEEK

1. Traffic Report of Railways, March (10 cents).
2. Car Loadings on Canadian Railways - Weekly (10 cents).
3. Dealers' Stocks of Non-Ferrous Scrap Metal, April (10 cents).
4. Number and Value of Live Stock on Farms, Saskatchewan, June 1, 1946 (10 cents).
5. Operating Results of Country General and Retail Dry Goods Stores, 1945 (25 cents).
6. Stocks of Butter, Cheese and Eggs in Nine Principal Cities, July 1 (10 cents).
7. Monthly Review of the Wheat Situation (10 cents).
8. Sales and Purchases of Securities Between Canada and Other Countries, April (10 cents).
9. Production of Canada's Leading Minerals, April (10 cents).
10. Monthly Review of Business Statistics, May (10 cents).
11. Telegraphic Crop Report, Canada (10 cents).
12. Fruit and Vegetable Crop Report, (10 cents).
13. Cheques Cashed and Money Supply, May (10 cents).
14. Monthly Dairy Review of Canada, May (10 cents).
15. Fluid Milk Trade, April (10 cents).
16. Prices and Price Indexes, May (10 cents).
17. Copper and Nickel Production, April (10 cents).
18. Silver, Lead and Zinc Production, April (10 cents).
19. Prepared Stock and Poultry Feeds Industry, 1945 (25 cents).
20. Maple Products, 1947 (10 cents).
21. Production, Shipments and Stocks on Hand of Sawmills, April (25 cents).
22. Transit Report, February (10 cents).
23. Trade of Canada: Imports Entered for Consumption, April (25 cents).