D.B.S. WEEKLY BULLETIN

Dominion Bureau of Statistics

DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND COMMERCE

OTTAWA - CANADA

$1 a year

Vol. XV - No. 31 Saturday, August 2, 1947

CROP CONDITIONS IN THE PRAIRIE PROVINCES

Above-normal temperatures and moisture deficiencies have caused further deterioration in the crops over wide areas of the Prairie Provinces, particularly in Saskatchewan and Alberta, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Fairly general rains over most of Manitoba have maintained quite satisfactory conditions in that province, but only scattered showers have fallen in Saskatchewan and Alberta. Unless heavy rains are received in the very near future the already large drought areas in these two provinces will expand still further. Extremely hot, dry weather during the past three weeks has largely destroyed the promise of good yields which existed earlier in south-western and west-central Saskatchewan and in much of the eastern half of Alberta. In large portions of north-western and north-central Saskatchewan, and in parts of south-eastern and east-central Alberta, where adverse reports have been received throughout most of the season, deterioration has reached the stage where any substantial recovery cannot be expected.

Rains over a large part of Manitoba have maintained the generally good crop conditions previously established in that province. Insect and hail damage throughout the province has been very light to date. Correspondents in some west-central areas of the province and in a few localities north of Winnipeg indicate, however, that considerable deterioration due to heat and dry weather has occurred, particularly in stubble crops. Cooler weather in most areas would be welcomed, the heat of the past three weeks having advanced maturity of many crops somewhat too rapidly.

Continued warm weather with only scattered local showers has resulted in further general deterioration to crops in Saskatchewan. While prospects in the south-east, east-central and the east half of south-central districts continue good to fair, the general downward trend has not been arrested over the remaining large areas of the province in some of which pronounced feed shortages are indicated. Cutting of fall rye is now general in some districts and wheat fields are showing premature ripening.

Further deterioration of crops occurred in Alberta during the past week. Crop prospects continue fair to good in south-western, northern and north-central Alberta and in the Peace River district but elsewhere in the province the outlook has depreciated. In the south-eastern and east-central districts deterioration of crops on stubble land is far advanced and good rains immediately would be beneficial, particularly to summerfallow crops. Rain is urgently needed in all districts to prevent further declines in the crop outlook. Temperatures were well above normal during the week while only scattered showers were received in most districts. Wheat is reported to be 80 per cent headed out over the province as a whole.

STOCKS OF CREAMERY BUTTER IN NINE PRINCIPAL CITIES

Stocks of creamery butter in nine of the principal cities of Canada on July 25 totalled 36,477,532 pounds compared with a revised total of 33,440,024 pounds on July 18, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Holdings by cities, with revised totals for June 18 in brackets, were as follows: Quebec, 3,515,-805 (3,081,779) pounds; Montreal, 15,344,152 (14,714,699); Toronto, 3,683,643 (3,572,-783); Winnipeg, 6,349,773 (5,365,432); Regina, 470,578 (435,060); Saskatoon, 287,977 (245,953); Edmonton, 1,685,209 (1,408,913); Calgary, 1,412,233 (1,296,347); Vancouver, 3,728,162 (3,319,058).

STOCKS AND MARKETINGS OF WHEAT AND COARSE GRAINS

Stocks of Canadian wheat in store or in transit in North America at midnight on July 24 amounted to 56,289,685 bushels, compared with 59,388,279 on July 17, and 39,-768,984 on the corresponding date last year, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Visible on July 24 comprised 56,231,685 bushels in Canadian positions and 58,000 bushels in United States positions.

Farmers in the Prairie Provinces delivered 3,796,672 bushels of wheat during the week ending July 24 as compared with 2,608,893 in the preceding week. During the elapsed portion of the present crop year -- August 1 to July 24 -- total was 329,494,-921 bushels compared with 233,534,871 in the similar period of the crop year 1945-46.

The following quantities of coarse grains also were delivered from farms in the Prairie Provinces during the week ending July 24, totals for the preceding week being in brackets: oats, 1,598,198 (1,164,207) bushels; barley, 889,446 (600,695); rye, 9,709 (4,939); flaxseed, 676 (876).

ESTIMATES OF THE FRUIT CROP

The tree fruit crops are somewhat lighter this year than last, but berry and grape output is heavier, according to the first estimate of production released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The apple crop, currently estimated at 15,859,000 bushels is 18 per cent smaller than the 19,282,000 bushels harvested last season. The crop, however, is well above the 10-year, 1936-45 average of 13,418,000 bushels.

A moderate decline in outlook for pears from a year ago brings the estimate of the Canadian crop to 864,000 bushels, or nine per cent below the 1946 level. A 20 per cent decline in plums and prunes brings the crop to 651,000 bushels, the drop being due chiefly to the unfavourable prospects in Ontario.

The peach crop is down 15 per cent from last season at 1,829,000 bushels. Unfavourable weather at blooming time resulted in a 28 per cent decrease in Ontario. A sharp drop in cherry production in Ontario brings the Canadian total to 235,000 bushels. The Ontario crop, estimated at 75,000 bushels, is 59 per cent smaller than the 1946 harvest of 184,000 bushels.

The strawberry crop which is estimated at 23,978,000 quarts this season is substantially heavier than that of last year when production was set at 17,412,000 quarts. This is the largest crop since 1940, with increases in all provinces but Nova Scotia where production remained at last year's level.

A moderate improvement in the outlook for the raspberry crop since last season brings production to 14,026,000 quarts. The harvest in 1946 amounted to 13,240,000 quarts. Loganberries are produced in commercial quantities only in British Columbia where an increase of eight per cent brings the expected harvest to 1,768,000 pounds.

Grape production in 1947 is expected to be only slightly heavier than in 1946, the crop being currently estimated at 67,846,000 pounds, compared with 67,321,000 pounds. The Ontario crop, which is set at 65,054,000 pounds remains practically unchanged from a year ago. In British Columbia, however, the anticipated crop has been raised from 2,195,000 pounds last season to 2,792,000 pounds.

CRUDE PETROLEUM OUTPUT IN MAY

Canadian output of crude petroleum and natural gasoline during May amounted to 635,354 barrels, an increase over the April quantity of 602,129 barrels but below the 649,838 barrels produced in May last year, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Aggregate output in the five months ended May was 2,971,653 barrels as compared with 3,248,478 barrels in the like 1946 period.

May production in Alberta was 560,579 barrels as against 598,018 barrels a year ago, and for the five months aggregated 2,694,733 compared with 3,098,190 barrels. Saskatchewan's wells produced 35,593 barrels in May as compared with 11,366 barrels in May 1946, bringing the total for the five months to 116,950 compared with 33,775. Output in the Northwest Territories increased slightly in May to 27,308 as compared with 26,806 barrels last year, but for the five months showed an increase to 104,314 as against 55,069 barrels. May output in Ontario amounted to 9,900 as compared with 10,894 barrels a year ago, and in New Brunswick to 1,974 compared with 2,804 barrels.

PRODUCTION OF WHEAT FLOUR IN JUNE

Production of wheat flour was further increased in June, the total being 2,497,-324 barrels, compared with 2,183,648 in the corresponding month last year, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Output for the eleven months of the current crop year aggregated 26,253,619 barrels compared with 24,271,196 in the similar period of 1945-46.

Exports of wheat flour moved up sharply in June, amounting to 2,341,605 barrels, compared with 1,060,325 in the same month of last year. During the eleven months ending June, exports aggregated 16,018,788 barrels, being well above last year's corresponding total of 12,613,888 barrels.

Wheat used in the manufacture of flour in June amounted to 11,168,146 bushels compared with 9,726,088 in the same month last year, bringing the total for the eleven months ending June to 117,295,941 bushels, compared with 107,983,780 in the like period of 1945-46. Stocks of wheat in flour mills at the end of June totalled 5,674,981 bushels, against 6,068,526 at the end of May.

Following quantities of coarse grains also were milled in June, totals for June 1946 being in brackets: oats, 2,612,573 (2,206,190) bushels; corn, 147,771 (122,451); barley, 712,347 (686,273); buckwheat, 450 (701); mixed grains, 1,559,249 (1,475,035).

FISHING INDUSTRY MAKES ADJUSTMENTS

Fishery statistics for the first six months of 1947 indicated that the industry on the Atlantic coast is definitely adjusting its production and processing program to meet current market requirements. The industry enjoyed strong markets for all its products throughout the war years, but as the fisheries of the United Kingdom and north-western European countries recovered, the European demand has declined, except for certain relief requirements. Markets for frozen fish products have weakened, not only because of the reduced overseas demand, but also due to competition from Newfoundland and Iceland in the United States market.

Since the demand for the canned and salted forms of fish remain relatively strong both in the normal export markets and for relief purposes, a considerable diversion of production from frozen into cans and salt is evident in the figures for the first six months of 1947. Landings of cod, the principal Atlantic coast species, amounted to 74,178,000 pounds as compared with 121,758,000 pounds in the same period of 1946. Landings of all species of fish on both coasts amounted to 409 million pounds with a landed value of $17.7 million compared with 434 million pounds valued at $22.6 million in the first six months of 1946. The major decline in landed value has occurred on the Atlantic coast where the value of the cod and lobster catches was sharply below that of last year. Unfavourable weather conditions were mainly responsible for the reduced lobster catch. The major Pacific coast fisheries, with the exception of halibut, have not yet come to the season of main production.

No significant changes took place in the prices of fishery products during June, although the index of wholesale prices declined a further eight points, while the index of prices of all foods increased by four points.

The sharp reduction in freezings of cod fillets in 1947 had tended to keep cold storage holdings of all fish at lower levels compared with those of 1946. At July 1, 1947 stocks of all kinds of frozen fish amounted to 35.5 million pounds compared with 34.1 million pounds at the same date in 1946.

OCCUPIED FARM LAND IN ALBERTA IN 1946

Total area of occupied farm land in Alberta in 1946 showed a decrease of 2,016,-430 acres or 4.7 per cent as compared with 1941 but an increase of 720,931 acres or 1.8 per cent over 1936, according to a preliminary compilation of Prairie Census returns released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Total improved land, however, showed a decrease of only 95,376 acres or 0.5 per cent as compared with 1941 and an increase of 1,666,481 acres or 9.1 per cent over 1936. Area under crop in 1946 showed increases of 561,099 acres or 4.6 per cent and 741,478 acres or 6.1 per cent compared with 1941 and 1936 respectively. The area under summerfallow was 531,591 acres or 8.1 per cent less than in 1941 but 907,052 acres or 17.8 per cent greater than in 1936.

INDEX NUMBERS OF WHOLESALE PRICES MOVED UPWARD IN JUNE

Both the general index number of wholesale prices compiled by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics and the index numbers of each of the eight component groups moved upward during June, according to figures released by the Bureau.

The general index number, on the base 1926=100, rose 2.5 points to 127.8 from 125.3 for May, making a total increase of 18.5 points since June last year, when the index stood at 109.3. In January this year the index was 114.2, the half-year advance being 13.6 points.

Among the sub-group indexes, that for vegetable products rose slightly from 111.4 for May to 111.8 for June, while the index for animal products moved up from 128.0 to 129.6, due chiefly to increases for livestock, eggs, footwear, raw furs and halibut. The textile products index rose 7.2 points from 123.9 to 131.1, with principal increases in cotton thread, yarn and fabrics, raw wool and wool cloth. Index for wood products, advanced more moderately from 161.0 to 162.8, chief price increases being in pine, spruce, hemlock and hardwood lumber, and wrapping paper, partly offset by a decrease for shingles.

The iron products index increased from 133.7 to 134.8, with main increases in iron pipe, wire nails and car axles. Non-ferrous metals index showed a sharp jump of 11.8 points from 115.1 to 126.9, due mainly to increases in copper, lead, zinc and solder. Index of non-metallic minerals rose from 111.4 to 113.0, with increases in brick and coal. Chemical products index increased seven points from 103.9 to 110.9, principal prices increases being in quebracho extract, white lead, dynamite, iodine and soap, while shellac was lower.

MAY SALES OF FLUID MILK AND CREAM

Total sales of fluid milk and cream in Canada during May amounted to an estimated 367,113,000 pounds (milk equivalent), showing a decline of approximately 2.25 per cent from the total for May last year, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Milk sales decreased about 7.5 per cent, but sales of cream in terms of butter-fat rose 30 per cent.

Total milk sales in forty urban markets for which the Bureau receives reports were more than seven per cent below May last year but almost three per cent above April this year. Quart sales of cream in these markets were 15 per cent higher than in the corresponding month of 1946 and in terms of butter-fat 30 per cent higher.

Among the larger of these markets, fluid milk sales in Montreal amounted during May to 13,111,000 quarts, down nearly six per cent from May last year. In Toronto, sales were 11,690,000 quarts, a decrease of 8.4 per cent; Winnipeg, 3,720,000 quarts, a decline of 7.2 per cent; Vancouver, 5,121,000 quarts, a drop of slightly less than two per cent.

PRODUCTION OF NATURAL GAS IN MAY

Natural gas production in Canada during May amounted to 4,060,753 thousand cubic feet compared with 4,406,115 thousand in April and 3,816,270 thousand in May last year, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics reports. Aggregate output for the five months ended May increased to 25,941,018 thousand cubic feet as against 23,356,722 thousand in the corresponding period of 1946. Alberta accounted for 21,117,778 thousand cubic feet of this year's five-month aggregate, Ontario for 4,474,572, New Brunswick for 249,772 and Saskatchewan for 98,896 thousand cubic feet.

SILVER PRODUCTION IN MAY

Output of primary silver in Canada during May increased over April but was below May last year, amounting to 928,506 fine ounces as compared with 853,667 fine ounces in April and 1,037,921 fine ounces in the corresponding month of 1946, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Production to the end of May this year totalled 4,486,460 fine ounces, substantially below the total of 5,505,613 fine ounces for the corresponding 1946 period.

LEAD AND ZINC OUTPUT IN MAY

production of lead and zinc in Canada during May was close to the levels of April and below the output of the corresponding month last year, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

Lead output for the month amounted to 25,672,215 pounds compared with 25,850,461 pounds in April and 30,050,050 in May a year ago, and for the five months to the end of May declined to 130,796,872 as against 156,747,920 pounds in 1946.

Production of primary zinc in May was 35,942,900 pounds as against 36,341,332 pounds in the preceding month and 40,904,913 pounds in the corresponding 1946 month, and for the five months of this year aggregated 173,302,754 compared with 206,975,318 pounds last year.

PRODUCTION AND SALE OF COAL AND COKE IN APRIL

The strike in the coal mines of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, which commenced February 15, continued through the month of April, reducing the Canadian output of coal by 38 per cent compared with the production of April 1946, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Production for the month totalled 851,114 tons against 1,360,226 a year ago. Total for the four months ended April 30 amounted to 4,630,172 tons, a drop of 28 per cent compared with the output of 6,396,-589 tons in the same period of last year.

Production of coke from ovens and gas retorts during April amounted to 282,000 tons compared with 308,000 in the preceding month and 283,000 in April, 1946. Output for the four months ended April was 1,217,000 tons compared with 1,236,000 a year ago.

Imports of coal in April amounted to 1,550,355 tons, an increase of 16 per cent over April, 1946. The total for the year to date, amounting to 5,282,014 tons, showed little change from the first four months of 1946, when 5,292,433 tons were imported. Exports of coal during the month totalled 22,688 tons, or 64 per cent less than in April, 1946.

Sales of coal and coke reported by retail fuel dealers in April totalled 1,013,-287 tons, distribution being as follows by provinces: Prince Edward Island, 10,570 tons; Nova Scotia, 19,663; New Brunswick, 18,642; Ontario and Quebec, 683,072; Manitoba, 77,666; Saskatchewan, 80,898; Alberta, 40,994; British Columbia, 81,782. Retail dealers held 841,514 tons of coal and coke at the end of April.

MAY SHIPMENTS OF PRIMARY STEEL SHAPES

Shipments of primary shapes by Canadian steel mills, exclusive of producers' interchange, totalled 202,681 net tons in May compared with 206,708 tons in April and 270,061 tons in May last year, according to figures issued by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Shipments during the first five months of the year aggregated 1,097,393 tons as against 1,240,557 tons in the like 1946 period.

May shipments included 5,648 tons of semi-finished shapes, 14,064 tons of structurals, 19,019 tons of plates, 15,164 tons of rails, 51,289 tons of hot rolled bars, 12,815 tons of pipes and tubes, 16,897 tons of wire rods, 20,404 tons of black sheets, 7,353 tons of galvanized sheets, 7,775 tons of castings, and 395 tons of tool steel. Producers' interchange amounted to 74,813 tons.

Of the amount shipped for sale during May, 43,220 tons went to railways and railway car shops direct; 14,130 tons to pressing, forming and stamping plants, 20,628 tons to merchant trade products; 26,022 tons to building construction; 16,912 tons to the containers industry; 9,236 tons to agricultural equipment; 12,820 tons to the automotive industry; 12,822 tons to machinery plants; 5,231 tons to shipbuilding; and 8,802 tons to mining, lumber, etc. Exports accounted for 5,023 tons.

OUTPUT OF STEEL INGOTS IN JUNE

Production of steel ingots in Canada in June totalled 230,580 tons, compared with 235,978 in the preceding month and 208,296 in the corresponding month last year, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. During the first six months of this year, 1,441,430 tons were produced, compared with 1,402,797 in the similar period of 1946.

This year's June production averaged 7,686 tons per day, compared with 7,612 tons per day in May and 6,941 tons in June, 1946. Average daily output for the first six months of this year was 7,964 tons, compared with 7,750 tons in the first half of 1946.

GOLD PRODUCTION IN APRIL

Gold production in Canada in April was recorded at 255,177 fine ounces, compared with 263,209 in the preceding month and 238,216 in the corresponding month last year, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Output for the first four months of this year was 974,353 fine ounces, compared with 953,523 in the similar period of 1946.

April output was as follows by provinces, totals for the first four months of the year being in brackets: Nova Scotia, 8 (1,103) fine ounces; Quebec, 51,536 (178,651); Ontario, 166,826 (655,504); Manitoba and Saskatchewan, 13,822 (56,963); British Columbia, 18,418 (63,583); Yukon 45 (853); Northwest Territories, 4,522 (17,687).

CHEQUES CASHED AGAINST INDIVIDUAL ACCOUNTS

Cheques cashed in Canada in the first six months of this year were greater than in any similar period since the statistics were first collected, the total being $36,409 million compared with $34,484 million in the corresponding period of 1946, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Total for June was $5,975 million compared with $5,609 million in the same month last year, an increase of 6.5 per cent.

Cheques cashed in the Maritime Provinces in the first half of 1947 totalled $850 million, an increase of $64 million over the first six months of 1946. The advances in Moncton and Saint John were 12 per cent or more, while an increase of 4.7 per cent was shown in Halifax.

The relative increases in the three centres of Quebec were of a similar character, ranging from 14 per cent to 16 per cent. The increase in Montreal was $1.3 billion, the total in the first half of the present year having been $10.6 billion. The consequent increase in the provincial total was $1,459 million or 14.3 per cent. The standing for the province was $11,657 million against $10,197 million in the first half of 1946.

Twelve of the fourteen centres in Ontario recorded advances in the present comparison. The greatest percentage increase was shown in Chatham where the debits which had been $87 million in the first half of 1946 rose to $116 million. The indicated increase was no less than 33.3 per cent. St. Catharines recorded the second relative advance, the total having been $145 million against $117 million. The consequent increase was 24 per cent or $28 million. Cheques cashed in Toronto amounted to $10,116 million, a decline of 3.2 per cent. The net result was a recession of 3.5 per cent in the provincial total. The amount for the first half of the present year was $15.2 billion.

Each of the ten centres in the Prairie Provinces recorded advances in the first half of the present year. The greatest percentage increase was shown in Medicine Hat where the total was $42 million, a gain of nearly 26 per cent. An increase of 17.7 per cent was shown in Calgary where the total cheques cashed amounted to $843 million. The debits in Winnipeg exceeded $3 billion, the increase over the first half of 1946 having been six per cent. The total for the three provinces was $5,544 million compared with $5,069 million.

An increase of 17.8 per cent was recorded for the three centres of British Columbia. The greatest percentage advance was shown in Vancouver, which moved up 19 per cent. The standing in the first six months was $2,571 million against $2,161 million. The total for British Columbia was $3,135 million against $2,662 million.

FURTHER DROP IN NUMBER OF CLAIMS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE BENEFIT

Claims for unemployment insurance benefit filed during June at local offices across Canada showed a further drop as compared with the previous month and last year, totalling 21,365 as against 27,603 in May and 30,646 in June 1946, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Decreases from May were registered in all Provinces except Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia, where the numbers increased slightly. Marked declines from the year ago figures were recorded in Quebec, Ontario and British Columbia, but somewhat higher figures in the Maritimes and the Prairie Provinces.

Number of live ordinary claims at June 30 also declined to 47,317 as compared with 59,410 at May 31 and 82,382 on the last working day of June 1946. Major decreases from a year ago were also in Quebec, Ontario and British Columbia, but all provinces showed lower figures except Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia. In addition to the ordinary claims, there were 2,616 other claims -- largely short-time claims -- on the live unemployment register at June 30 as compared with 3,264 at the end of May.

During June, 27,470 claims were adjudicated, 18,025 being considered entitled to benefit and 9,445 not entitled to benefit. Benefit totalling $2,153,537 was paid during the month to 62,221 persons for 1,122,849 compensated unemployed days. This compares with $3,072,952 paid to 83,982 persons for 1,584,428 unemployed days in May, and $4,472,995 paid to 103,231 persons for 2,243,727 unemployed days during June last year.

Average duration of the unemployment compensated in June was 18 days as compared with 18.9 days in May and 21.7 days in June a year ago. The average amount of benefit paid per beneficiary during the month was $34.61 as against $36.59 the previous month and $43.33 in June 1946, and the average amount of benefit paid per compensated day of unemployment was $1.92 compared with $1.94 and $1.99 respectively.

SAWN LUMBER PRODUCTION IN MAY

Total Canadian production of sawn lumber, excluding sawn ties, increased in May to 415,331,000 feet board measure as compared with 351,945,000 feet in April and 383,210,000 feet in May last year, according to estimates released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The month's gain over the corresponding 1946 month was 8.4 per cent as against a similar April gain of 7.1 per cent, bringing the estimated output for the five months ending May to 1,870,934,000 feet as compared with 1,773,811,000 feet last year, an increase of nearly 5.5 per cent.

Production in British Columbia during May showed a sharp increase of 115 per cent over a year earlier, amounting to 210,851,000 as compared with 97,914,000 feet board measure, but was down slightly from the April output of 213,977,000 feet. Output of the Pacific Province for the five months totalled 989,765,000 feet as against 844,-158,000 feet in the corresponding 1946 period, an increase of more than 17 per cent.

Output east of the Rockies in May was down about 28 per cent from May last year, amounting to 204,480,000 feet as compared with 285,296,000 feet, and for the five months aggregated 881,169,000 as against 929,653,000 feet last year, a decline of five per cent. May production east of the Rockies by provinces, with figures for May last year being in brackets, in thousand feet, was as follows: Prince Edward Island, 1,573 (1,346); Nova Scotia, 30,216 (30,240); New Brunswick, 21,701 (29,317); Quebec, 71,725 (111,260); Ontario, 64,033 (93,282); Manitoba, 562 (2,690); Saskatchewan, 3,019 (7,634); Alberta, 11,651 (9,527).

PASSENGERS TRANSPORTED BY TRANSIT SYSTEMS IN MARCH

March traffic on urban transit systems increased to 137,424,405 revenue passengers from 135,105,578 in 1946, and interurban traffic to 7,758,242 from 7,707,280 passengers last year. Despite the increase, interurban revenues declined from $2,382,-658 in 1946 to $2,228,278. Urban revenues increased from $8,183,961 to $8,271,797, which were at a lower ratio than the traffic increase.

The urban electric mileage declined by 258,709 miles or 2.4 per cent, trolley bus mileage increased by 67,762 miles or 27.3 per cent, and motor bus miles increased by 979,915 miles or 14.5 per cent. On interurban systems, electric car mileage declined by 3,859 miles or 0.7 per cent and motor bus miles increased by 126,193 miles or 2.2 per cent, exclusive of chartered vehicle mileages.

GAINFULLY OCCUPIED IN SASKATCHEWAN

Number of gainfully occupied persons, 14 years of age and over, in the population of Saskatchewan at June 1, 1946, was 311,760 compared with 339,899 in 1941 -- including persons on Active Service on June 2 -- a decline of 8.3 per cent, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Total population in this age group was 608,114 compared with 647,219 in 1941.

The male population in this age group fell from 351,187 in 1941 to 327,644 in 1946, or by 6.7 per cent. Of the 1946 total, 269,707 were in civilian employment, compared with 273,122 in 1941, a decrease of 1.3 per cent. Male wage-earners in this age category increased eight per cent, or from 94,026 in 1941 to 101,573, whereas employers and own accounts fell 3.2 per cent or from 142,550 to 137,934. Males working for no pay at 30,200 in 1946 were 17.4 per cent fewer in number.

Of the male population 14 years of age and over, those not in gainful occupations increased from 54,058 in 1941 to 55,277 in 1946, or by 2.2 per cent. Male students in this age group rose from 29,818 to 30,750, and the number of retired males from 14,802 to 20,266.

The number of males between the ages of 14 and 25 who had never been gainfully occupied and were not attending school but were seeking employment at the census date totalled 896, a decline of 72 per cent, while the number not seeking employment in this age group at 1,131, declined 34 per cent.

Number of gainfully occupied females, 14 years of age and over, was 42,053, showing a decline of 1.6 per cent since 1941. Total female population of the province in this age sector was 280,470 compared with 296,132 in 1941, a decrease of 5.3 per cent. Wage-earners accounted for 35,199 of the gainfully occupied females in 1946 compared with 34,553 in 1941.

Of the female population, 14 years of age and over, those not in gainful occupations numbered 215,656 compared with 253,252 in 1941, a drop of 14.8 per cent. Largest group was that of homemakers, of whom there were 182,277 in 1946 compared with 184,785.

Females, 14 to 25 years of age, seeking their first job, as in the case of males in this age group, declined 70.3 per cent, while those not seeking employment decreased 33.7 per cent in the same period. Female students over 14 years of age numbered 30,033 compared with 31,981, a decrease of 6.1 per cent.

FEWER HORSES ON ALBERTA FARMS

Number of horses on Alberta farms, after a fairly moderate decline between 1936 and 1941, fell sharply last year to 468,981 from 649,216 on June 1, 1941, a decline of nearly 28 per cent, according to preliminary figures of the 1946 census released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. At the same date in 1936, the number had been 676,994. Value of Alberta's farm horses on June 1 last year was $17,594,940, against $30,093,260 in 1941, and $39,621,256 in 1936.

Cattle population of Alberta on June 1, 1946 was 1,598,350, as against 1,342,130 in 1941, and 1,554,143 in 1936. The value of cattle rose sharply, totalling $98,852,-373 in 1946, as compared with $51,824,675 in 1941, and $27,509,388 ten years earlier.

There has been a steady decrease in the number of sheep, the 1946 total at 666,-809 comparing with 674,918 in 1941, and 765,891 in 1936. The number of swine, at 939,556 shows a sharp decrease of almost 50 per cent from 1941, but still seven per cent greater than in 1936.

Number of poultry shows increases of 11 per cent and 42 per cent when compared with 1941, and 1936, respectively. There has been a sharp increase in the number of hives of bees, the 1946 total of 31,772 comparing with 15,055 in 1941 and 8,513 in 1936.

OCCUPIED FARMS IN ALBERTA

Number of occupied farms in Alberta in 1946 was 89,561, showing a decrease of 10 per cent when compared with 1941, and a decline of 11 per cent in the ten years since 1936, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The reduction occurs in all census divisions and less than one per cent of the subdivisions show any appreciable increase in the number of occupied farms.

BIRTHS, DEATHS AND MARRIAGES

Births in the larger cities, towns and villages of Canada showed a further increase in May, registrations during the month totalling 16,278 compared with 13,769 in the corresponding month last year, an increase of 18 per cent, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Deaths increased by nine per cent or from 5,116 to 5,580, but marriages decreased seven per cent from 6,041 to 5,600.

STOCKS OF RAW AND REFINED SUGAR

Canadian refinery stocks of raw sugar on July 12 amounted to 129,457,535 pounds, compared with 115,047,793 on the corresponding date last year, while the stocks of refined sugar totalled 133,444,412 pounds, compared with 119,467,906, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

CAR LOADINGS ON CANADIAN RAILWAYS

Car loadings on Canadian railways for the week ending July 19 declined to 77,286 cars from 78,244 cars for the preceding week, but they were well above loadings in previous years; in 1946 loadings for the corresponding week amounted to 68,221 cars.

Loadings in the eastern division increased from 46,791 cars last year to 53,731 cars, the main increases being in grain, coal, sand, gravel, stone, other mine products, pulpwood, gasoline and oils and l.c.l. merchandise. Loadings in the western division increased from 21,430 to 23,555 cars, the only large increase being in grain from 2,607 to 3,445 cars.

ACREAGE OF VEGETABLES FOR PROCESSING

The late spring season which delayed all seeding throughout Eastern Canada has resulted in an eight per cent over-all reduction in the area of beans, corn, peas and tomatoes under contract for processing, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The total area of these crops planted at July 9 amounted to 129,530 acres compared with the contracted acreage of 141,310 acres. The contracted acreage in 1946 was 137,390.

The planted acreage of the four crops with the acreage under contract in brackets is as follows: beans, 7,470 (8,190) acres; corn, 36,950 (39,590) acres; peas, 40,570 (44,700) acres; tomatoes, 44,540 (48,830) acres. The contracted acreage of these crops in 1946 was: beans, 7,430 acres, corn 38,580 acres, peas 45,140 acres, tomatoes 46,240 acres.

OPERATING RESULTS OF HARDWARE STORES IN 1945

Hardware stores operated on a gross margin of 24.6 per cent in 1945, approximately one per cent lower than in 1944, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. At the same time, expenses were reduced from 13.5 per cent in 1944 to 12.3 per cent in 1945, with the result that net profits, before deduction of proprietors' salaries and income taxes were slightly greater in the latter year.

Net profit and gross profit ratios generally declined with increase in volume of business. Like the retail trade in general, salary expense, as a ratio of net sales, increased with sales volume, while the rent expense ratio decreased. Other expenses showed little change over the different size ranges.

OPERATING RESULTS OF RETAIL FILLING STATIONS AND GARAGES IN 1945

Filling stations realized a wider gross margin in 1945 than in the preceding year, respective ratios being 17.9 per cent and 16.5 per cent, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. A higher ratio of expenses, especially salaries, offset the 1945 marginal advantage to result in a slightly smaller net profit than was realized in 1944. Average net profit in 1945 was 7.1 per cent compared with 7.3 per cent in 1944.

In 1945, garages for the repair of motor vehicles and for sale of parts, accessories, gasoline, oil and grease operated on a gross profit of 27.9 per cent as compared with the 1944 gross margin of 26.7 per cent. A greater expense ratio in 1945 reduced this advantage to only slightly greater net profits -- 9.3 per cent in 1945, and nine per cent in 1944.

REPORTS ISSUED DURING THE WEEK

1. Monthly Review of Business Statistics, June (10 cents).
2. Prices and Price Indexes, June (10 cents).
3. Statistical Report on the Operation of the Unemployment Insurance Act, June (10 cents).
4. Fluid Milk Trade, May (10 cents).
5. Production of Canada's Leading Minerals, May (10 cents).
6. Production, Shipments and Stocks on Hand of Sawmills, May (20 cents).
7. Primary Iron and Steel in Canada, May (10 cents).
8. The Toilet Preparations Industry in Canada, 1945 (25 cents).
9. Alberta: Area and Condition of Occupied Farm Land, 1946 (10 cents).
10. Dealers' Monthly Report on Non-Ferrous Scrap Metal May (10 cents).
11. Summary of Monthly Indexes of Wholesale Sales, 1941-1946 (25 cents).
12. Canadian Fisheries Statistics, June (10 cents).
13. Operating Results of Retail Filling Stations and Garages, 1945 (25 cents).
14. Cheques Cashed and Money Supply, June (10 cents).
15. Transit Report, March (10 cents).
16. Operating Results of Retail Hardware Stores, Furniture Stores, Household Appliance and Radio Stores, (25 cents).
17. Sugar Report, June 21 to July 12 (10 cents).
18. Fruit Crop Report (10 cents).
19. Coal and Coke Statistics for Canada, April (10 cents).
20. Telegraphic Crop Report, Prairie Provinces (10 cents).
21. Acreage of Vegetables for Processing in 1947 (10 cents).
22. Number and Value of Live Stock, Alberta, 1946 (10 cents).
23. Population 14 years of Age and Over, by Status, Saskatchewan, 1946 (10 cents).
24. Canadian Milling Statistics, June (10 cents).
25. Canadian Grain Statistics - Weekly (10 cents).
26. Petroleum and Natural Gas, May (10 cents).
27. Silver, Lead and Zinc Production, May (10 cents).
28. Trade of Canada: Exports, 1946 ($2.00).
29. Car Loadings on Canadian Railways - Weekly (10 cents).
30. Steel Ingots, June (10 cents).
31. Gold Production, April (10 cents).
32. Number of Occupied Farms, Alberta, 1946 (10 cents).
33. Births, Deaths and Marriages, May (10 cents).
34. Operating Results of Miscellaneous Retail Stores, 1945 (25 cents).

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