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CANADA'S MERCHANDISE EXPORTS REACH NEW PEACETIME HIGH IN FIRST HALF OF 1946

Canada's merchandise export trade reached a new peacetime monthly high in June at \$272,700,000 exceeding the May figure by \$5,100,000, and 63.5 per cent above the June 1946 total of \$166,700,000, according to trade returns released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Aggregate value for the first six months of the year was \$1,328,500,000, 25 per cent above the first half of 1946 and more than three and a half times as high as in the first six months of 1946.

The expansion in Canada's export trade in the first half of 1946 was virtually world-wide in extent, shipments to most of the 121 countries listed in the returns being at a higher level. Exports to countries of the British Empire were valued at \$552,317,000, showing a sharp rise of 38 per cent over the similar period of 1946, while the aggregate to foreign countries was \$776,142,000 compared with \$663,377,000, an increase of 17 per cent.

Six-months' exports to the United States totalled \$432,006,000 compared with \$396,442,000 in the first half of last year, while shipments to the United Kingdom, showing an almost identical gain, totalled \$352,639,000 compared with \$266,080,000. The Union of South Africa was the third largest purchaser of commodities, up from sixth last year, at \$40,157,000 compared with \$25,753,000.

France and the Netherlands were in fourth and fifth position, respectively, six-month export trade with the former country amounting to \$35,233,000 compared with \$30,462,000, and the latter, \$31,816,000 compared with \$19,176,000. Australia followed with \$30,200,000 compared with \$14,420,000, Belgium \$22,923,000 compared with \$36,650,000, Newfoundland \$22,506,000 compared with \$15,133,000, Italy \$19,604,000 compared with \$11,371,000, China \$18,956,000 compared with \$13,301,000, and India \$17,362,000 compared with \$31,520,000.

Half-year exports were higher to all Latin-American countries, the aggregate for the group rising from \$41,819,000 last year to \$63,961,000.

There was a general advance shown for all nine main commodity groups of exports in June, gains being outstanding in agricultural and vegetable products, and wood and paper products. In the six-month period, two groups showed reduction -- animals and animal products, and fibres, textiles and textile products. As in June, most pronounced advances during the half year were shown in the agricultural and wood and paper products sections.

In the agricultural and vegetable products group, wheat exports rose from \$124,251,000 in the first half of 1946 to \$130,023,000, wheat flour from \$60,319,000 to \$102,413,000, other grains from \$10,842,000 to \$18,222,000, and rubber and products from \$11,326,000 to \$17,033,000. In the animals and animal products group, bacon and hams rose slightly from \$33,116,000 to \$33,248,000, but fish and fishery products showed a small decline, from \$38,603,000 to \$38,280,000. Other meats showed a substantial decline from \$36,421,000 to \$26,909,000, and furs from \$22,696,000 to \$16,014,000.

In the wood and paper group, newsprint rose sharply from \$119,836,000 a year ago to \$162,360,000 in the first six months of this year. Planks and boards also recorded a marked advance from \$43,816,000 to \$90,723,000, wood pulp from \$54,671,000 to \$82,074,000, and other unmanufactured wood from \$20,433,000 to \$34,204,000. In the iron and products group, exports of automobiles advanced from \$23,843,000 to \$42,690,000, farm implements and machinery from \$16,382,000 to \$21,005,000, and machinery other than farm from \$6,084,000 to \$17,373,000, while exports of locomotives and parts fell from \$16,720,000 to \$10,720,000.

Six-month exports of aluminum and products increased from \$18,530,000 in 1946 to \$27,152,000, copper and products from \$17,733,000 to \$24,661,000, lead and products from \$3,363,000 to \$14,972,000, nickel from \$26,331,000 to \$30,164,000 and zinc and products from \$13,874,000 to \$15,593,000. Non-metallic minerals as a group moved up from \$24,099,000 a year ago to \$34,183,000, and chemicals and allied products from \$33,010,000 to \$42,693,000.

Exports of fibres, textiles and textile products were valued at \$24,406,000 as compared with \$29,175,000 in the similar period of 1946, wool and products falling from \$11,794,000 to \$4,002,000.

COST-OF-LIVING INDEX AT JULY 2

With five of the six component groups showing increases, and one unchanged, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics cost-of-living index, on the base 1935-1939=100, advanced a full point between June 2 and July 2, or from 134.9 to 135.9. At July 2, the index was 3.9 points higher than at the beginning of the year, and 10.3 points higher than on the corresponding date last year. When adjusted to the base August 1939=100, the index moved to 134.8 at July 2 as compared with 133.8 on June 2.

The index for the food group rose from 157.7 on June 2 to 159.3 on July 2, and compares with 144.2 on the same date last year. Among the individual food items showing increases at a large number of centres were butter, cheese, eggs, lamb, rice, cocoa, potatoes, marmalade, and lemons.

The fuel and light sub-group index advanced from 116.7 on June 2 to 117.3 when it was 10.1 points higher than at the beginning of July last year. Rentals index at 117.3 on July 2 was unchanged from June 2 but was 5.2 points higher than last year.

The clothing index rose on July 2 to 143.2 as compared with 142.4 on June 2 and 126.4 a year ago; homefurnishings and services, 142.5 as against 139.3 on June 2 and 125.1 last year; and miscellaneous sub-group, 117.2 compared with 117.1 a month earlier and 113.7 last year.

Among the non-food items showing increases were men's suits, women's rayon slips and men's and women's shoes. Several items of furniture and house furnishings also showed small increases.

INVENTORIES AND SHIPMENTS BY MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES IN MAY

The upward movement in the value of manufacturing inventories continued in May though at a somewhat slower rate than in the two preceding months, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. After gains of almost four per cent in both March and April, the rise in May was slightly less than three per cent. The value of shipments also continued their upward movement and in May this total for all reporting firms was about 22 per cent above the level in January. While part of this is due to a rise in prices since the general index of wholesale prices rose almost 10 per cent between January and May, it also reflects the movement of a larger volume of goods.

In May the gain in total inventories was largely at the raw material level -- 4.4 per cent -- whereas finished goods inventory which had shown large increases in the preceding months showed only a small rise or 0.8 per cent. This overall rise conceals some conflicting trends in different industries. In the textile group, finished goods inventories showed most of the increase and were up about 11 per cent over the end of April. In contrast to this, finished goods inventories in the iron and its products group showed a decline and raw material inventories were up by five per cent. Most of this decline was due to the shipment of accumulated inventories in the agricultural implements industry.

NEW DWELLING UNITS COMPLETED IN 156 CANADIAN MUNICIPALITIES

New dwelling units completed in the first six months of this year in 156 Canadian municipalities from which full returns have been received by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, totalled 8,340, as compared with 7,740 in the similar period of 1946, an increase of 14 per cent.

CROP CONDITIONS IN CANADA

Further deterioration in crop prospects have occurred in the Prairie Provinces during the past week, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Premature ripening will reduce yields, especially of coarse grains, in most districts.

Intensive heat during the past week has hastened maturity of all grains in Manitoba and has caused deterioration especially to coarse grain crops which are maturing too rapidly. Rains since Saturday have brought some relief. The wheat crop in the main is promising especially in the Red River Valley and Swan River regions. Oats and flaxseed crops are average while barley prospects are below average. Other crops are mostly good especially the hay crop which has been gathered under excellent conditions. Swathing and cutting operations are becoming general in the south-west and central sections of the province while in the northern areas harvesting will get under way next week.

Continued dry weather with high temperatures is forcing premature ripening of all grains in Saskatchewan. Harvesting of fall rye is now general and cutting of coarse grains will start this week. Some fields of wheat are now being harvested in the western districts. Considerable sawfly damage is indicated in south-central, south-western and west-central districts.

Timely rains in central and northern Alberta brought some improvement in crop prospects for the province as a whole. Continued hot, dry weather in the south-eastern and east-central districts, however, caused further deterioration of crops. Rain is urgently needed in these districts and elsewhere in the province for filling, particularly of late crops. Prospects are fair to good in the central and northern districts but in the south-eastern half of the province the outlook is poor. The wheat crop is headed out with coarse grains 90 per cent in head. Some combining of early fields of wheat is reported in the south, and cutting of fall rye is under way.

Reports from Quebec indicate that during the past two weeks haying operations have been delayed and the quality of hay damaged by frequent heavy rains. The average yields of hay per acre are good but about 35 per cent of the crop still remains to be harvested. Generally speaking pastures have benefited from the wet weather and milk production has been maintained at a good level. The appearance of grain crops is good on well drained soils but only mediocre on low land. In spite of abundant weed growth truck crops are promising and potato crop prospects are especially good. The strawberry crop has been one of the best and raspberries and blueberries also promise good yields.

Harvesting conditions in Ontario during the past ten days have been generally more favourable. During the period large quantities of hay have been stored although in several sections there are many farmers who still have hay in the fields. Much of the fall wheat has been cut and some threshing has been done with yields average or better. Early sown spring grains which generally look well are ripening rapidly and a few fields have been cut. Late sown fields are likely to be failures. Much of the corn acreage is quite poor. Tobacco growing districts report good prospects for this crop. In northern Ontario, the harvest of a very good crop of hay got under way about ten days ago but recent rains have delayed operations. Late sown grains in this area are promising.

The weather in British Columbia has been hot and dry during the past two weeks. Mixed hay is now under cover and harvesting of winter grains and field peas is general. Some early fields of oats have also been cut. The hop crop is promising and early plum and peach varieties are moving to the packing houses. Picking of field tomatoes is now general.

The growth of grains, roots and potatoes has been excellent in the Maritime Provinces. Good progress has been made with the hay crop except in New Brunswick where excessive rain has delayed operations and caused some spoilage. Some early sown fields of oats have been cut. Late sown crops are growing rapidly. Potatoes look promising although blight has begun to develop in some areas.

WORLD WHEAT SITUATION

Both in Canada and the United States crop-year-end carry-overs of wheat are at near minimum levels, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics reports in its monthly review of the wheat situation. In the United States, stocks of wheat in all positions amounted to only 83.5 million bushels on June 30, end of that country's crop year. The official estimate of Canada's carry-over stocks will not be released until August 12, but it is anticipated that the total will not differ markedly from the low level of just under 70 million bushels reached at the end of the 1945-46 crop year.

Clearances from the two major exporting countries in the Southern Hemisphere, Argentina and Australia, have not been heavy during the current crop year. Crops in both countries were below average last year and carry-overs at the beginning of the season, December 1, 1946, were at an extremely low ebb. Should both countries fill their current commitments their carry-overs at December 1, 1947, will again be of insignificant proportions.

Overseas requirements for wheat were very high during the current season and much larger quantities of bread grains could have been shipped had they been available. Strict rationing had to be maintained in the deficit areas and diets in most, if not all, of the war-devastated countries have been far from adequate. While European production of wheat in 1946 was significantly greater than in 1945, shortages of labour, machinery and fertilizers combined to restrict acreages and yields, and total production was well below prewar levels. Another factor contributing to the drain on world bread-grain supplies has been the serious world shortages of rice, sugars and fats which created additional pressure on the exportable surpluses of cereals.

The distribution and allocation of supplies has also been difficult during the past year. The greater part of the 1946 exportable surpluses of wheat, corn and oats was located in North America, which added greatly to the problem of meeting requirements of the deficit areas in a timely manner. Export movement from North America during the latter half of 1946 and early 1947 was seriously hampered by limitations of rail transport; by Maritime and other strikes; by severe winter weather and by lack of supplies in forward positions at the outset of the crop year. Conditions improved markedly later in the season and the rate of exports from North America during recent months has been most satisfactory.

In the Argentine, export movement has been retarded by transportation difficulties, and shortages of bags, as well as by an apparent reluctance on the part of producers to deliver wheat at the relatively low prices set by the Trade Promotion Institute. According to trade reports practically all of the Argentine's exportable surplus, estimated at 95 million bushels, was sold under bilateral contracts with various countries. Australia's exportable surplus was placed in the vicinity of 40 million bushels with latest advices indicating that some 43 million bushels of wheat and flour equivalent have been sold for export. Most of Australia's shipments are destined for the Pacific area, but a few cargoes of flour have cleared for the United Kingdom.

In many respects the wheat situation in the new crop year appears likely to duplicate that of 1946-47. The crops in most western European countries suffered severely during the past winter and many countries, including Italy, France, the United Kingdom, Belgium, the Netherlands, and Denmark will be even more dependent this year on outside supplies than they were in 1945-46. Rust has materially reduced the outturn of wheat in India.

On the supply side, the United States is harvesting an all-time record wheat crop and substantial export quotas for August and September have already been established. Prospects for a large Canadian wheat crop have deteriorated considerably in recent weeks due to hot, dry weather over much of the Prairies -- although the outlook is still good in many of the normally heavy-yielding areas of all three provinces.

The Argentine crop has evidently gone into the ground under favourable conditions but no acreage estimate is as yet available. Reports from Australia indicate that upwards of 15 million acres may have been seeded and that crop prospects are currently quite satisfactory. It is reiterated, however, that reserve stocks in all exporting countries are practically non-existent and as a result practically all exportable supplies will again have to be obtained from the new crop.

STOCKS AND MARKETINGS OF
WHEAT AND COARSE GRAINS

Stocks of Canadian wheat in store or in transit in North America at midnight on July 31 -- last day of the crop year 1946-47 -- totalled 55,492,136 bushels compared with 56,289,685 on July 24, and 39,621,318 on the corresponding date last year, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Visible on the latest date comprised 55,395,136 bushels in Canadian positions and 27,000 bushels in United States positions.

Deliveries of wheat from farms in the Prairie Provinces during the week ending July 31 were recorded at 4,212,915 bushels, compared with 3,793,234 in the preceding week, bringing the preliminary total for the crop year 1946-47 to 333,704,398 bushels compared with 237,297,178 in the preceding year.

Marketings of oats from farms in the Prairie Provinces during the week ending July 31 amounted to 2,117,158 bushels compared with 1,604,341 in the preceding week, barley 1,123,279 bushels compared with 900,618, rye 23,934 bushels compared with 9,709, and flaxseed 1,012 compared with 676.

According to preliminary figures, the following quantities of coarse grains were delivered from farms in the Prairie Provinces during the crop year 1946-47, totals for the preceding year being in brackets: oats, 100,210,377 (107,359,837); barley, 68,436,134 (67,255,294); rye, 5,514,112 (3,096,064); flaxseed, 4,339,039 (4,732,762).

SALES OF NEW MOTOR VEHICLES

Sales of new motor vehicles showed a further increase in June, 19,965 units retailing for \$34,557,484 compared with 18,391 for \$32,156,275 in the preceding month, and 12,726 units for \$19,415,561 in the corresponding month last year, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. During the first six months of this year, 101,619 units were retailed for \$175,539,616 compared with 46,889 units for \$70,452,343 in the similar period of 1946.

Passenger car sales continued to increase, total for June being 14,902 units valued at \$25,265,625, compared with 12,473 at \$21,153,052 in May, and 8,153 at \$11,639,902 in June a year ago. During the first six months of this year, 69,523 units retailed for \$117,253,137 compared with 28,345 for \$39,514,436 in the like period of 1946.

Truck and bus sales in June were higher than in June last year, but were under those for May. In June this year, 5,163 units retailed for \$9,291,859 compared with 5,913 for \$11,005,223 in May, and 4,573 for \$7,775,659 a year ago. In the first half of this year, 32,091 trucks and buses were sold for a total of \$59,291,479, compared with 18,544 for \$30,337,847 in the same period of 1946.

FINANCING OF MOTOR
VEHICLE SALES IN JUNE

Financing of motor vehicle sales by Canadian finance companies in June remained close to the level of the two preceding months and well above volume for the same month last year, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Transactions involving new vehicles numbered 3,973 -- 76 per cent greater than in June, 1946. The increase was even more substantial in the used vehicle field where transactions numbered 7,119, an increase of 203 per cent.

In the first half of this year, the sales of 25,808 new passenger and commercial vehicles were financed, an increase of 116.5 per cent over last year's corresponding total of 9,609 units. The number of new passenger cars financed increased from 4,534 in the January-to-June period of 1946 to 11,530 in the first six months of the current year, a gain of 154 per cent, while the commercial vehicles advanced from 5,975 to 9,278, or by 55.3 per cent.

Sales of 30,834 used vehicles were financed during the first six months of this year, compared with 16,344 in the similar period of 1946, an increase of 88.7 per cent. Number of used passenger models financed was 23,207 compared with 12,523, an increase of 85.3 per cent, and commercial vehicles, 7,627 compared with 3,821, an increase of 99.6 per cent.

STOCKS OF BUTTER AND CHEESE IN NINE PRINCIPAL CITIES

Stocks of creamery butter in nine of the principal cities of Canada on August 1 totalled 33,571,602 pounds, compared with 25,423,021 on July 1, and 34,565,722 on the corresponding date last year, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Cheese stocks on August 1 amounted to 27,073,041 pounds, compared with 20,417,432 on July 1, and 31,166,955 on August 1 last year.

Holdings of creamery butter were as follows by cities, totals for August 1, 1946, being in brackets: Quebec, 3,372,696 (4,051,016) pounds; Montreal, 15,928,733 (13,019,326); Toronto, 3,814,232 (4,730,650); Winnipeg, 6,435,734 (5,460,052); Regina, 416,227 (349,007); Saskatoon, 174,890 (277,902); Edmonton, 2,404,003 (1,628,351); Calgary, 1,639,968 (1,234,537); Vancouver, 3,234,927 (3,305,331).

OUTPUT OF REFINED PETROLEUM PRODUCTS

Output of refined petroleum products in May totalled 6,835,726 barrels compared with 6,234,799 in the corresponding month last year, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. During the five months ending May, 26,730,231 barrels were produced, compared with 24,443,293 in the similar period of 1946.

May output included 2,923,232 barrels of motor gasoline, 26,093 barrels of aviation gasoline, 1,522,066 barrels of heavy fuel oil, 1,264,330 barrels of light fuel oil, 191,015 barrels of kerosene and stove oil, 245,753 barrels of tractor distillate, 34,747 barrels of naphtha specialties, and 576,320 barrels of other refinery products, such as lubricating oils, asphalt, coke, etc.

Refineries used 7,319,359 barrels of crude oil in May compared with 6,345,133 in the same month of last year. Receipts of crude during the month totalled 7,373,600 barrels, including 7,307,400 of imported oil and 571,200 from Canadian sources of supply. Inventories of crude at refineries at the end of the month amounted to 4,243,503 barrels compared with 3,724,955 on the same date last year.

PRODUCTION OF RADIO RECEIVING SETS INCREASED IN MAY

Production of radio receiving sets was increased in May, the month's total amounting to 61,536 units compared with 47,724 in the preceding month, and 44,954 in the corresponding month last year, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Total output for the first five months of this year amounted to 312,400 units compared with 197,503 in the similar period of 1946. Producers' inventories at the end of May were 32,375 units.

PRODUCTION AND DOMESTIC SALE OF ASPHALT ROOFING MATERIALS

Production of asphalt shingles and rolled roofing in June amounted to 435,575 squares, compared with 402,833 in the corresponding month last year, while the output of tar and asphalt felts and sheathing totalled 4,773 tons compared with 4,565, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The month's domestic sales of these roofing materials comprised 429,700 squares of shingles and rolled roofing, compared with 419,733, and 4,772 tons of felts and sheathing compared with 4,437.

OUTPUT OF CENTRAL ELECTRIC STATIONS IN JUNE

Output of central electric stations in June amounted to 3,755,362,000 kilowatt hours, a decrease of four per cent from May, but an advance of almost 10 per cent over the corresponding month last year, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. During the first six months of this year, 22,263,288,000 kilowatt hours were produced compared with 20,636,229,000 in the like period of 1946, an increase of 10.5 per cent.

Consumption of primary power -- production, less exports and secondary power -- amounted to 3,016,921,000 kilowatt hours in June, compared with 3,159,460,000 in May, and 2,505,626,000 in June, 1946. In the first half of 1947, 13,055,100,000 kilowatt hours were consumed compared with 15,159,038,000 in the similar period of 1946.

LOADINGS OF RAILWAY REVENUE FREIGHT

Railway revenue freight loaded and received from foreign connections during April increased to 12,411,143 tons as against 10,745,045 in the corresponding month last year, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Loadings increased by 220,284 tons or 10.6 per cent, imports by 609,036 tons or 43 per cent, and freight between foreign stations by 236,778 tons or 14.6 per cent.

Loadings of grain in April showed an increase of 12 per cent; flour increased from 221,315 to 253,328 tons, potatoes from 33,130 to 39,018 tons. Imports of anthracite coal increased from 319,591 to 428,521 tons, and of bituminous coal from 235,639 to 604,639 tons, offsetting a decrease in loadings of bituminous coal from 606,276 to 357,293 tons. Loadings of sub-bituminous coal increased from 172,768 to 198,974 tons, and lignite increased from 53,716 to 62,336 tons.

Loadings of ores and concentrates, other than iron and copper, increased from 242,704 to 410,139 tons. Sand and gravel declined from 150,290 to 117,152 tons, but crushed stone increased from 142,938 to 210,506 tons. Cement also increased from 110,325 to 131,361 tons. Loadings and imports of petroleum oils both increased. Loadings of newsprint paper increased from 270,847 to 331,293 tons, and of woodpulp from 143,850 to 184,823 tons. L.C.L. merchandise increased from 236,085 to 325,280 tons, or by 13.7 per cent.

CAR LOADINGS ON CANADIAN RAILWAYS

Car loadings on Canadian railways for the week ended July 26 increased to 79,848 cars from 77,286 cars for the preceding week and 70,266 cars for the corresponding week last year, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. This brings the total for the first 30 weeks of this year to 2,175,841 cars as against 2,001,708 cars in 1946 and 2,001,073 cars in 1944, the previous peak.

Grain loadings increased from 5,276 cars in 1946 to 6,310 cars and grain products from 2,794 to 3,344 cars. Coal increased from 4,294 to 4,329 cars, the gain being all in the eastern division. Ores and concentrates rose from 2,496 to 3,531 cars; sand, stone, gravel, etc. from 4,370 to 5,332 cars; pulpwood from 4,148 to 5,344 cars; lumber from 4,703 to 5,044 cars; gasoline and oils from 3,748 to 4,199 cars; iron and steel products from 710 to 1,474 cars; and l.c.l. merchandise from 17,294 to 18,402 cars.

REPORTS ISSUED TODAY

1. Car Loadings on Canadian Railways - Weekly (10 cents).
2. Asphalt Roofing Industry, June (10 cents).
3. Domestic Exports, Excluding Gold, June (10 cents).
4. Stone Industry, 1945 (10 cents).
5. Inventories and Shipments by Manufacturing Industries, May (25 cents).
6. Sales of New Motor Vehicles, January-June (10 cents).
7. Food Mills in Canada, 1947 (\$1.00).
8. Age Distribution of Population of Manitoba, 1946 (10 cents).
9. Monthly Traffic Report of Railways, April (10 cents).
10. Iron Castings Industry, 1945 (25 cents).
11. Radio Receiving Sets, May (10 cents).
12. New Dwelling Units and New Buildings Containing Dwelling Units, Six Months Ending June 30, 1947 (25 cents).
13. Central Electric Stations, June (10 cents).
14. Price Movements, July (10 cents).
15. Monthly Review of the Wheat Situation (10 cents).
16. Stocks of Butter, Cheese and Eggs in Nine Principal Cities, August 1 (10 cents).
17. Trade of Canada: Imports Entered for Consumption, May (25 cents).
18. Medicinal and Pharmaceutical Preparations Industry, 1945 (25 cents).
19. Bread and Other Bakery Products Industry, 1945 (25 cents).
20. Sand and Gravel Industry, 1945 (25 cents).
21. Refined Petroleum Products, May (20 cents).
22. Financing of Motor Vehicle Sales, June (10 cents).
23. Telegraphic Crop Report, Canada (10 cents).

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



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