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## EXTERNAL TRADE AT PEACETIME HIGH LEVEL IN FIRST HALF OF 1946

External trade of Canada in the first six months of 1947 was valued at $2,602,000,000, a high record for a peacetime period, and only $31,200,000 under the all-time high of $2,633,200,000 for the first half of 1944, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Trade so far this year was 33 per cent higher than in the similar period of 1946, and was 2.3 per cent in excess of the first half of 1945. Aggregate value of June trade was $507,400,000, only slightly under the monthly peacetime peak of $511,500,000 shown for May, and 55.4 per cent in advance of June last year.

Merchandise was exported to the value of $1,328,500,000 in the first six months of this year, 25 per cent above the first half of 1946, and more than three and one-half times as high as in the first six months of 1938. Domestic exports in June reached a new peacetime monthly high, being valued 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.

Commodity imports in the first half of 1947 were valued at $1,256,700,000, an increase of 42.8 per cent over last year's corresponding total of $879,900,000, and 57.3 per cent more than in the like period of 1945 when the total was $798,700,000. Value of imports in June was $231,100,000, compared with $240,300,000 in May, and $157,700,000 in June last year.

Foreign commodities were re-exported to the value of $16,800,000 in the first six months of this year, compared with $11,100,000 in the like period of 1946. Total for June was $3,700,000, compared with $3,400,000 in May, and $2,100,000 in June, 1946.

### Merchandise Imports

Largest contribution to the increased value of imports in the first six months of this year was made by the iron and iron products group, which rose from $209,800,000 in the first half of 1946, to $362,400,000. Group total for June was $69,150,000, compared with $40,453,000 a year ago. Gains were widely distributed throughout the group in the half-year period, with rolling-mill products, farm implements and machinery, other non-farm machinery, automobiles and parts, engines and boilers, showing the largest increases.

With sharp increases in cotton and cotton products, wool and wool products, artificial silk and products, and other textiles, the fibres, textiles and textile products group rose from $118,165,000 in the first six months of 1946 to $220,252,000. Total for June was $36,581,000 compared with $20,129,000 a year ago.

General advance in the imports of non-metallic minerals and products, especially in coal, glass and glassware, and petroleum and products, raised the total for the group from $137,323,000 in the first six months of 1946 to $191,756,000. In June the group total was $39,185,000 compared with $23,776,000.

Imports in the non-ferrous metals group in the first half of this year were valued at $78,900,000 compared with $52,400,000 in the like period of 1946. In June the value was $15,400,000 compared with $11,200,000 in June of last year. The half-year total for the chemicals group was $58,100,000 compared with $46,800,000 a year ago, and in June, $9,500,000 compared with $7,500,000.

Agricultural and vegetable products were imported in the first half of this year to the value of $173,577,000 compared with $151,438,000 in the like period of 1946, with tea, vegetable oils, and rubber and rubber products among the largest increases. In June, the group valuation was $30,160,000 compared with $25,978,000 in the corresponding month last year.

Half-year imports of animals and animal products were valued at $47,200,000 compared with $31,000,000 in the like period of 1946, the total for June standing at $9,800,000 compared with $4,100,000. Wood, wood products and paper were imported to the value of $45,300,000 in the first half of this year, compared with $33,400,000 a year ago, with the June total at $8,000,000 compared with $5,800,000.

Imports from the United States in the first six months of this year were valued at $980,939,000 as compared with $618,359,000 in the like period of 1946. In June the value was $174,669,000 compared with $106,597,000 a year ago. Goods received from the United Kingdom in the first half of this year were valued at $84,635,000 compared with $110,894,000 in the same period of 1946, and in June this year, $18,118,000 compared with $23,394,000 a year ago.

Imports from other leading countries in the first half of this year were as follows, totals for the similar period of 1946 being in brackets: India, $19,393,000 ($15,167,000); British Malaya, $10,073,000 ($974,000); Australia, $7,481,000 ($8,468,000); New Zealand, $6,799,000 ($4,836,000); Argentina, $9,699,000 ($2,930,000); Brazil, $6,406,000 ($7,716,000); Cuba, $6,877,000 ($7,097,000); Mexico, $6,997,000 ($10,686,000); Venezuela, $18,618,000 ($11,019,000); Switzerland, $6,023,000 ($3,965,000).

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## FIRST ESTIMATE OF CANADA'S 1947 GRAIN CROPS

The wheat crop for all Canada in 1947 is estimated at 358,786,000 bushels, which is approximately 62,000,000 bushels less than the production in 1946, according to estimates released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The estimated average yield per acre is 15.0 bushels as compared with the revised yield of 17.5 bushels per acre last year, and the long-time average yield of 16 bushels per acre. The current crop will be harvested from an estimated 23,875,200 seeded acres.

In previous years the first estimate of grain production was issued by the Bureau in September. This year's departure from previous practice is an attempt to improve on the timeliness of crop reports, and the estimates given herein are subject to revision in the light of actual harvesting conditions. Most of the spring grains are not yet ready for harvest and the first estimate of these crops is, therefore, in the nature of a forecast.

For the Prairie Provinces the wheat crop is expected to yield 336,000,000 bushels as compared with 400,000,000 bushels in 1946. The anticipated average yield of wheat in the Prairie Provinces this year is 14.6 bushels per seeded acre, with Manitoba averaging 20, Saskatchewan 13, and Alberta 16 bushels per acre.

The estimated production of wheat in the remaining provinces of Canada is 22,786,000 bushels, of which Ontario's output at 19,603,000 bushels represents the principal part. All but 513,000 bushels of the production in Ontario is fall wheat.

The production of oats in 1947 is estimated at 291,620,000 bushels as compared with the 1946 crop of 400,069,000 bushels. The reduction in output of 108,449,000 bushels is the result of reduced acreages and substantial declines in yields per acre in Ontario and the Prairie Provinces.

Barley production at 154,554,000 bushels in 1947 is approximately 5,300,000 bushels below that of a year ago. Marked reductions in yields in Ontario and Manitoba were partially offset by appreciably increased production in Saskatchewan and Alberta. Increases in production this year were accounted for by the larger acreages sown.

The combined output of fall and spring rye is estimated to be 14,906,000 bushels, representing an increase of approximately 100 per cent over the outturn for 1946. Increased acreages of both the fall and spring varieties together with appreciable increases in the yield per acre of fall rye are the principal factors in the over-all gain in output. The greatest increases occurred in Saskatchewan and Alberta.

Flaxseed production in 1947 is expected to approximate 10,900,000 bushels as compared with 6,384,000 bushels in 1946. Appreciable increases in flaxseed acreages in the three Prairie Provinces more than offset reduced yields per acre in Manitoba and Alberta.

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## PRODUCTION OF BUTTER AND CHEESE IN JULY

Production of creamery butter in July amounted to 42,240,000 pounds as compared with 41,000,000 in the corresponding month last year, an increase of three per cent, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. During the first seven months of this year, 167,931,000 pounds were produced, compared with 165,076,000 in the similar period of 1946, a rise of 1.7 per cent.

The month's make of cheddar cheese totalled 22,307,000 pounds, compared with 25,200,000 in July last year, a decrease of 11.5 per cent. In the seven-month period, 67,558,000 pounds were produced, compared with 83,390,000 in the similar period of 1946, a reduction of 19 per cent. Decreases were shown in all provinces in the month.

Production of concentrated milk products in July amounted to 41,973,000 pounds, compared with 36,400,000 in the same month of last year, an increase of 15.3 per cent. In the cumulative period, 203,417,000 pounds were produced, compared with 190,171,000 in the same months last year, an increase of seven per cent.

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## STOCKS OF DAIRY AND POULTRY PRODUCTS ON AUGUST 1

Stocks of creamery butter on August 1 amounted to 58,560,114 pounds, showing a seasonal increase of 37 per cent over the preceding month, and an increase of 0.2 per cent over the corresponding date last year, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Cheese stocks on August 1 were 48,693,427 pounds, compared with 41,914,995 on July 1, and 52,820,942 on August 1, 1946.

Stocks of evaporated whole milk held by or for manufacturers on August 1 amounted to 19,414,291 pounds as against 16,717,922 on July 1, and 25,746,647 on August 1 last year, while the holdings of skim milk powder were 7,608,133 pounds compared with 7,484,985 on July 1, and 4,018,160 a year ago.

August 1 stocks of shell eggs totalled 25,530,571 dozen, compared with 26,097,-318 a month earlier and 15,772,500 on August 1 last year. Holdings of frozen egg meats were 16,451,890 pounds, as against 13,842,261 on July 1, and 10,091,106 on August 1, 1946.

Poultry meat stocks on August 1 amounted to 13,072,835 pounds as against 12,077,-605 on July 1, and 6,453,707 a year ago.

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## STOCKS OF MEAT ON AUGUST 1

Stocks of meat held by packers, abattoirs, wholesale butchers and cold storage warehouses on August 1 amounted to 66,176,182 pounds, compared with 74,772,678 on July 1, and 58,000,112 on the corresponding date last year, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

Pork stocks moved up from 40,212,907 pounds on August 1 last year to 44,873,655, beef from 12,643,005 pounds to 14,216,944, veal from 3,846,959 pounds to 5,644,299, and mutton and lamb from 1,297,241 pounds to 1,441,284.

Holdings of lard showed a marked improvement over August 1 last year, amounting to 2,488,270 pounds compared with 837,971.

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## STOCKS OF FROZEN FISH ON AUGUST 1

Stocks of frozen fish were increased on August 1, the total having been 42,690,-472 pounds, compared with 35,620,480 pounds on July 1, and 41,410,773 pounds on August 1 last year, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. This year's August 1 total comprised 38,556,570 pounds frozen fresh, and 4,133,902 pounds frozen smoked. Holdings of cod fell from 11,178,145 pounds on August 1 last year to 6,115,934 pounds, but stocks of other types were increased.

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## INDEX NUMBERS OF FARM PRICES FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

Prices received by Canadian farmers for agricultural products at June 15 averaged higher than on the corresponding date in 1946, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The index number of prices received for all products, on the base 1935-1939=100, stood at 194.8, or 7.8 points above the index number of 187.0 a year ago.

By provinces, considerable variation exists, in comparison with June of last year. The index numbers for Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick are lower than a year ago, due principally to marked declines in prices received for potatoes and fruits. The index numbers for all other provinces have registered increases from June last year. Higher prices for live stock, dairy products and poultry and eggs are chiefly responsible for the increases in the index for each of these provinces.

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## EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLLS AT JUNE 1

Important expansion in employment was reported by leading firms in the eight major industrial groups at the beginning of June as compared with a month earlier, the upward movement being greater than at June 1 in any year since 1941. The Dominion Bureau of Statistics tabulated information from 17,696 employers with a combined working force of 1,899,247 men and women, an increase of 2.7 per cent over their May 1 staffs of 1,849,139.

Based on the 1926 average as 100, the index of employment advanced from 179.6 at May 1 to 184.5 at the beginning of June, when it was the highest in the record for the time of year, exceeding by 8.6 per cent that of 169.9 at June 1, 1946; the situation then had been seriously affected by industrial disputes. Previously, the high figure for June 1 was that of 181.2 in 1943.

The general trend at June 1 this year was favourable in all provinces, and in all main industrial divisions. The reported additions to the working forces in manufacturing were moderate, being rather less-than-normal in the experience of earlier years of the record; activity in this group of industries was nevertheless maintained at a high level, the index being at its maximum in the period since September 1, 1945. Among the non-manufacturing classes, there were large gains in mining, transporation and construction; in mining, the partial resumption of operations in the coal fields of Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick, following the settlement of the prolonged industrial dispute, contributed materially to the increased volume of employment. Improvement which was important, though on a smaller scale than in the group of industries referred to, was also recorded in logging, communications, hotels and restaurants, and trade.

The reporting firms in the eight leading industries at the beginning of June paid $68,368,861 in salaries and wages for services rendered in the week preceding, an increase of three per cent over the total distributed at May 1. The weekly earnings of the persons in recorded employment averaged $36.00 at June 1, the highest in the record of six years. The per capita figure at May 1 was $35.89, and at June 1 last year, $31.68.

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## MOTOR VEHICLE SHIPMENTS IN MAY

Factory shipments of Canadian-made motor vehicles in May totalled 21,665 units, compared with 21,891 units in April and 20,022 in the corresponding month last year, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. During the first five months of this year, 105,078 units were shipped compared with 64,204 in the similar period of 1946.

Of the shipments in May, 12,900 were passenger cars, of which 10,062 were made for sale in Canada and 2,838 were for export. Shipments of trucks in the month totalled 8,706 -- 5,246 for sale in Canada and 3,460 for the export market. There were also 59 buses shipped in June, comprising 49 for sale in Canada and 10 for export.

In the five months of this year, 64,322 passenger models were shipped from the factories, of which 45,419 were for the domestic market and 18,903 for shipment abroad. Trucks shipped during the period totalled 40,448, including 25,439 for use in Canada and 15,009 for export. Of the 308 buses shipped, 288 were for sale in Canada, and 20 for export.

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## PRODUCTION OF DOMESTIC ELECTRIC REFRIGERATORS AND WASHING MACHINES

Production of domestic type electric refrigerators was increased in June, amounting to 7,886 units, compared with 7,550 in the preceding month, and 5,670 in the corresponding month last year, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Output in the first half of this year has been well in advance of the similar period of last year, 48,715 units being produced compared with 26,360 a year ago.

Production of domestic washing machines in June totalled 16,706 units, six per cent under the record May total of 17,742 units, but sharply higher than in June last year when 9,259 units were turned out. During the first six months of this year, 94,657 units were produced, as compared with 59,233 in the similar period of 1946, an increase of almost 60 per cent.

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## JUNE PRODUCTION OF IRON AND STEEL

June production of steel was recorded at 238,297 net tons, slightly under the May output of 244,076 net tons, but almost 11 per cent higher than in June last year when the total was 214,861 tons, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. During the first six months of this year, 1,483,281 net tons were produced, compared with 1,449,639 in the similar period of 1946.

Production of pig iron in June amounted to 159,826 net tons as against 160,230 in May, and 129,890 in June, 1946. In the first six months of this year, 973,153 net tons were produced, compared with 876,023 in the like period of 1946.

Output of ferro-alloys in June totalled 16,212 net tons compared with 15,325 in the preceding month, and 11,684 in June a year ago. Total for the first half of this year was 77,750 net tons compared with 68,991 in the corresponding period of 1946.

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## SALES OF PAINTS, VARNISHES AND LACQUERS

Sales of paints, varnishes and lacquers by manufacturers, which normally account for 96 per cent of the total Canadian production, amounted to $6,706,917 in May, compared with $6,624,964 in April, and $5,945,465 in May, 1946, according to figures issued by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Sales for the five months ending May totalled $29,830,340 compared with $25,156,294 for the same period of 1946.

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## CONSUMPTION OF RUBBER IN JUNE

Consumption of rubber in June amounted to 11,575,320 pounds, according to a preliminary report issued by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Of this amount 5,884,950 pounds was natural rubber and 5,690,370 synthetic. Tires and tubes accounted for 4,360,962 pounds of the natural rubber, and 4,339,621 pounds of the synthetic.

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## FACTORY SALES OF ELECTRIC STORAGE BATTERIES

Sales of electric storage batteries and parts by principal Canadian producers in June were valued at $1,034,217, compared with $1,004,018 in May, and $631,561 in June, 1946, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. For the six months ending June, sales of batteries amounted to $6,028,467 compared with $4,324,255 in the similar period of 1946. The sales for June this year included 106,387 batteries at $808,797 for the ignition of internal combustion engines, 2,561 cells at $31,670 for farm lighting plants, and batteries valued at $104,303 for other purposes, including those for telephone switchboards, and $64,603 for parts and supplies.

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## PRODUCTION OF WIRE NAILS IN JUNE

Production of wire nails in June amounted to 6,220 tons compared with 6,669 tons in May and 5,686 tons in the corresponding month last year, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. During the first six months of this year, 38,355 tons were produced compared with 36,231 tons in the similar period of last year.

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RETAIL SALES IN JUNE

Retail stores in fourteen trades dealing principally in food, apparel, household equipment and personal effects reported sales averaging seven per cent higher in June than in the corresponding month last year, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Sales were down six per cent from May, but this trend is consistent with the normal seasonal movement from May to June. The increase over June a year ago was a little smaller than the average gain in earlier months of the year. At the close of the first half of this year, sales had established a margin of nine per cent over the same period of 1946. Unadjusted indexes, on the base, 1935-1939=100, stood at 232.7 for June this year, 216.6 for June 1946, and 247.7 for May, 1947.

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CANAL TRAFFIC IN JUNE

Total traffic through Canadian and United States locks of the Sault Ste. Marie canals in June amounted to 15,565,763 tons, an increase of 26 per cent over the total for the corresponding month last year, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Downbound iron ore increased from 8,708,774 to 11,837,343 tons, wheat from 605,376 to 871,419 tons, other grain from 91,018 to 198,966 tons, and upbound oil and gasoline from 107,376 to 143,997 tons. Upbound bituminous coal shipments declined from 2,273,-467 to 2,023,414 tons.

Traffic using the Welland Ship canal in June increased to 1,426,970 tons from 808,861 in the same month last year. Shipments of wheat rose by 119,901 tons, gasoline by 54,771 tons, oils by 58,391 tons, pulpwood by 27,139 tons, bituminous coal by 224,-538 tons, and iron ore by 64,057 tons.

Practically all the prinipal commodities passing through the St. Lawrence canals in June showed increases over 1946, and the total for the month increased to 995,450 tons from 272,125 a year ago. Wheat increased from 33,890 tons to 173,877 tons, gasoline from 41,410 to 72,885 tons, petroleum and other oils from 16,045 to 109,127 tons, pulpwood from 11,548 to 67,718 tons, and bituminous coal from 73,051 to 382,436 tons.

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CAR LOADINGS ON CANADIAN RAILWAYS

Car loadings on Canadian railways for the week ended August 2 amounted to 78,981 cars as compared with 79,848 in the preceding week and 70,581 in the corresponding week last year, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

Loadings of grain increased from 5,847 cars in 1946 to 7,293 cars; ores and concentrates from 2,507 to 3,411 cars; sandstone, gravel, etc. from 4,202 to 5,463 cars; pulpwood from 4,710 to 5,539 cars; gasoline and oils from 3,813 to 4,224 cars; iron and steel products from 676 to 1,437 cars; and L.C.L. merchandise from 17,108 to 17,987 cars.

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OPERATING REVENUES AND EXPENSES OF RAILWAYS IN MAY

Canadian railways earned $66,864,013 during May, a new high record for the month, and 20.6 per cent over the May 1946 total of $55,458,537, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. This increase was all in freight revenue which increased from $41,045,156 in 1946 to $52,831,284, or by 28.7 per cent. Passenger revenues declined by $276,465. Operating expenses increased by $10,405,905, or 21.6 per cent, and with taxes up by $772,975 and hire of equipment by $429,239, the operating income was reduced from $4,889,879 to $4,752,036, or by $137,843.

Freight traffic measured in revenue ton miles was 30.3 per cent heavier than in 1946, but was lighter than in May, 1943, 1944 and 1945. Passenger miles continued to decline from the 1944 peak and showed a decrease of 16.4 per cent from the 1946 traffic. The number of employees increased from 166,203 to 170,718 or by 2.7 per cent, the payroll increased from $28,949,406 to $34,000,609 or by 17.4 per cent.

In the five months ending May, gross revenues increased from $279,629,759 to $306,475,904 or by $26,846,145, but operating expenses increased by $31,597,289, and the operating income declined from $19,148,965 to $12,514,917.

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REPORTS ISSUED DURING THE WEEK

1. Shipbuilding Industry, 1945 (15 cents).
2. Jewellery and Silverware Industry, 1945 (25 cents).
3. Sheet Metal Products Industry, 1945 (25 cents).
4. Miscellaneous Iron and Steel Products Industry, 1945 (10 cents).
5. Hardware, Tools and Cutlery Industry, 1945 (25 cents).
6. Nickel-copper Mining, Smelting and Refining Industry, 1945 (25 cents).
7. Car Loadings on Canadian Railways - Weekly (10 cents).
8. Canadian Grain Statistics - Weekly (10 cents).
9. Indexes of Retail Sales, June (10 cents).
10. Nails, Tacks and Staples, June (10 cents).
11. Steel Wire, June (10 cents).
12. Wire Fencing, June (10 cents).
13. Domestic Type Electric Refrigerators, June (10 cents).
14. Domestic Washing Machines, June (10 cents).
15. Summary of Canal Traffic, June (10 cents).
16. Cold Storage Holdings of Fish, August 1 (10 cents).
17. First Estimate of Production of Principal Field Crops, Including Fall Wheat Fall Rye, Alfalfa, Hay and Clover (10 cents).
18. Employment Situation at Beginning of June (10 cents).
19. Production of Iron and Steel, June (10 cents).
20. Motor Vehicle Shipments, May (10 cents).
21. Factory Sales of Electric Storage Batteries, June (10 cents).
22. Consumption of Rubber, June (10 cents).
23. Sales of Paints, Varnishes and Lacquers, May (10 cents).
24. Index Numbers of Farm Prices of Agricultural Products, June (10 cents).
25. Operating Revenues, Expenses and Statistics of Railways, May (10 cents).
26. Population of Manitoba by Marital Status, 1946 (10 cents).
27. Cold Storage Holdings of Meat and Lard, August 1 (10 cents).
28. Telegraphic Crop Report, Canada (10 cents).
29. Dairy Factory Production, July (10 cents).
30. Stocks of Dairy and Poultry Products, August 1 (10 cents).
31. Imports for Consumption, June (10 cents).
32. Monthly Summary of Foreign Trade, June (10 cents).
33. Wages, Salaries and Supplementary Labour Income in Canada, by Months, January 1946 to April 1947 (25 cents).
34. Stocks of Fruits and Vegetables, August 1 (10 cents).

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