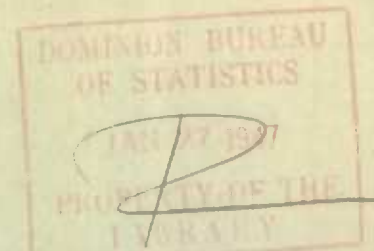


WEEKLY BULLETIN

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Third Estimate of Field Crops of Canada

Total gross farm value of field crops produced in Canada in 1946 is estimated at approximately \$1,247,000,000, an increase of more than \$96,000,000 over 1945, according to the third estimate released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Acreage sown to field crops in 1946 was 63,300,000, an increase of about 500,000 acres over the preceding year.

Production of wheat in 1946 is now estimated at 420.7 million bushels with a gross farm value of \$480.2 million. This represents an increase in production of 102.2 million bushels, and an advance in value of \$112.7 million over the corresponding figures for 1945. In the three Prairie Provinces total wheat production in 1946 is placed at 400 million bushels as compared with the final estimate for the 1945 crop of 294.6 million bushels. The average farm price of all wheat at \$1.14 per bushel is one cent below the average 1945 farm price of \$1.15, the decline being accounted for by the generally poorer quality of the 1946 crop in the Prairie Provinces.

The 1946 oat crop totals 400 million bushels as compared with the 1945 outturn of 381.6 million. The 1946 barley crop, at 159.9 million bushels, is up slightly from the 1945 level of 157.8 million bushels. Rye production for 1946 of 7.4 million bushels compares favourably with the 1945 crop of 5.9 million bushels but the 1946 flaxseed crop of 7.5 million bushels is fractionally below last year's production of 7.6 million. Shelled corn production totals 10.5 million bushels compared with 10.4 million.

A slight increase in the overall potato acreage, together with marked increases in yields per acre over 1945 outturns in all provinces except Manitoba, resulted in a 1946 potato crop of 48 million cwt. as compared with the 1945 crop of 36 million cwt. Dry pea production in 1946 shows a sharp increase of 835,000 bushels, or from 1,363,000 to 2,198,000 bushels. While the acreage devoted to the 1946 dry bean crop was down somewhat from 1945, a substantial increase in yield per acre gave total production of 1,570,000 bushels compared with 1,294,000 in 1945.

In contrast to the increases in production of most grain crops, the hay and clover and alfalfa crops were considerably poorer than those of 1945. Increases in both acreage and yield per acre contributed to a larger 1946 crop of sugar beets, the total being estimated at 733,500 tons compared with 619,200 tons in 1945.

The total values of field crops in 1946 are estimated as follows, with the revised figures for 1945 within brackets: Wheat \$480,215,000 (\$367,467,000); oats \$210,656,000 (\$203,113,000); barley \$105,930,000 (\$105,452,000); rye \$14,160,000 (\$8,680,000); peas \$6,475,000 (\$3,863,000); beans \$4,855,000 (\$3,456,000); soy beans \$2,370,000 (\$1,600,000); buckwheat \$4,173,000 (\$4,544,000); mixed grains \$36,457,000 (\$30,383,000); flaxseed \$21,657,000 (\$19,006,000); shelled corn \$11,157,000 (\$10,774,000); potatoes \$76,164,000 (\$81,168,000); turnips, etc. \$20,085,000 (\$22,246,000); hay and clover \$177,768,000 (\$213,769,000); alfalfa \$41,500,000 (\$48,130,000); fodder corn \$16,966,000 (\$15,188,000); grain hay \$10,092,000 (\$5,915,000); sugar beets \$6,944,000 partial payment (\$6,561,000).

By provinces the total values in 1946 are, in order of magnitude, as follows, with revised values for 1945 within brackets: Saskatchewan \$344,048,000 (\$326,635,000); Alberta \$279,628,000 (\$196,403,000); Ontario \$235,278,000 (\$232,676,000); Manitoba \$163,350,000 (\$134,852,000); Quebec \$134,875,000 (\$158,188,000); British Columbia \$28,078,000 (\$24,686,000); New Brunswick \$28,006,000 (\$37,251,000); Nova Scotia \$19,017,000 (\$21,619,000); Prince Edward Island \$15,344,000 (\$18,975,000).

Stocks and Marketings of Wheat and Coarse Grains

Stocks of Canadian wheat in store or in transit in North America at midnight on January 16 totalled 142,906,945 bushels compared with 146,579,040 on January 9 and 176,989,939 on the corresponding date of last year, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The total for January 16 this year included 138,622,684 bushels in Canadian positions and 4,284,261 bushels in United States positions.

Mineral Production of Canada

Value of mineral production of Canada in 1946 has been estimated at \$493,840,000, a downward revision of \$15,032,000 from the first estimate announced earlier by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The value for 1946 was \$4,915,000 under that for 1945, but was higher than in any peace-time year in history. Output of fuels, structural materials and other non-metallics were at record levels, but the gains were more than offset by decline in metallics.

The revised value of the metals produced has been placed by the Bureau at \$289,704,000 as compared with \$304,736,000 in the first estimate. This was the lowest since 1936, and compares with \$317,094,000 in 1945. Tonnage of copper was down 22 per cent from 237,457 tons in 1945 to 185,543 tons; nickel dropped 22 per cent to 95,406 tons; and zinc declined nine per cent to 235,917 tons. Lead increased slightly to 177,222 tons. Estimate of the output of gold has been reduced to 2,808,000 fine ounces and the value to \$103,181,000, representing a gain of four per cent in quantity, but a decline of six per cent in value.

Output of structural materials was greater than in any other year, the group valuation being \$61,400,000 compared with \$48,400,000 in the preceding year. As compared with 1945, cement production increased 13 per cent in quantity and 37 per cent in value to 11,415,167 barrels at \$19,500,000; clay products by 37 per cent to \$12,200,000; stone 11 per cent to \$9,000,000; and sand and gravel 34 per cent to \$14,100,000. Lime production was slightly lower in 1946, the total being 825,000 tons valued at \$6,500,000.

Fuels as a group rose from \$93,531,000 in 1945 to \$100,734,000. Coal production for 1946, estimated at 17,692,052 tons valued at \$74,400,000, represents gains of seven per cent in tonnage and 10 per cent in value over the preceding year. Output of natural gas at 46,902,000,000 cubic feet at \$11,300,000, was down three per cent in quantity and eight per cent in value. Crude petroleum declined nine per cent in quantity to 7,668,000 barrels, but the value at \$14,900,000, was 10 per cent higher than in 1945.

The non-metallics as a group were produced to the value of \$41,987,000 compared with \$39,711,000 in 1945. Output of asbestos rose from 466,897 tons valued at \$22,805,157 in 1945 to 549,497 tons valued at \$24,490,695 in 1946. Sharp increase was recorded in the production of gypsum, output rising from 839,781 tons valued at \$1,783,290 in 1945 to 1,833,717 tons valued at \$3,226,000. Salt production was reduced from 673,076 tons in 1945 to 530,250, while that of peat moss increased from 83,963 to 87,149 tons.

Production of Automobiles in 1946

Reversing the down-trend shown since the all-time record output of 270,191 units was established in 1941, production of automobiles -- passenger cars and commercial vehicles -- rose almost 30 per cent in 1946 over the total for the preceding year, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. A total of 172,250 units was produced last year compared with 132,645 in 1945, 158,038 in 1944, and 178,064 in 1943. Production during the war years included wheeled vehicles for military purposes.

Production of new passenger cars moved up sharply during the year to a total of 92,456 units, the highest year's figure since 1941 when 96,603 were turned out. Early in 1942, the production of passenger automobiles was stopped and the output for the year fell rapidly to 12,236; in 1943 and 1944 none was produced. Production of passenger models was re-commenced during the latter part of 1945, and the total for the year stood at 1,868 units.

Recording a further sharp reduction from the high level reached during the war years when demands for the armed forces swelled the figures to all-time records, output of commercial vehicles, and wheeled vehicles for the armed forces fell from 216,057 units in 1942 -- the high point -- to 130,777 in 1945 and still further to 79,794 in 1946. Despite the decline from wartime levels, production of commercial vehicles in 1946 exceeded pre-war output by a wide margin, comparing with 47,057 in 1939 and 54,417 in 1937, the highest in the thirties.

Births, Deaths and Marriages in November

Showing an increase of 31 per cent, births registered in November in cities and towns with a population of 10,000 and over, numbered 14,180 as compared with 10,794 in November 1945, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Marriages increased 16 per cent, or from 4,614 to 5,332, and deaths by four per cent from 4,980 to 5,162.

Financing of New and Used Motor Vehicles

Financing of the sales of new and used motor vehicles moved up substantially in 1946 over the level of the preceding year, but was still far below the volume attained in the years immediately preceding the war, according to preliminary figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

A total of 51,184 new and used motor vehicles was financed in 1946 for an aggregate of \$40,475,961 compared with 27,986 units for \$14,437,182 in 1945. A large part of the increase during the year was recorded in the financing of new motor vehicles, the total rising from 3,630 units in 1945 to 22,415, and the amount of financing from \$4,934,456 to \$27,353,155. In the used-car class, the number financed increased from 24,356 to 28,769 units.

Sales of 4,682 motor vehicles were financed in December to the extent of \$4,283,074 as compared with 4,951 transactions involving \$4,331,815 in the preceding month, and 1,783 for a total of \$995,450 in the corresponding month of 1945. The number of new vehicles included in the total for December 1946 was 2,437, practically the same as in November but sharply higher than in December 1945 when 259 units were financed. There was a slight reduction in the number of used vehicles financed in December compared with November, but an increase over December a year ago of almost 50 per cent.

Further Increase in Production of Steel Ingots in December

Furthering the series of monthly increases shown since September, production of steel ingots rose in December to 231,317 tons from 216,830 in November, 117,669 in October and 71,363 in September, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. December's output was the heaviest since May, when 251,697 tons were produced; it exceeded that for December 1945 by almost nine per cent. The total for the calendar year 1946 was 2,253,437 tons compared with 2,747,206 in 1945.

Stocks of Non-Ferrous Scrap Metal

Stocks of ingot makers' non-ferrous scrap metal were reduced by slightly more than eight per cent during November, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. End-of-November stocks were recorded at 5,013,822 pounds compared with 5,465,570 at the first of the month. Stocks of secondary non-ferrous ingot rose about seven per cent, or from 2,206,304 pounds to 2,347,063.

Slaughtering and Meat Packing Industry

Output of the slaughtering and meat packing industry of Canada in 1945 was valued at \$504,850,000 compared with \$543,034,000 in the preceding year, a decrease of seven per cent, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The decrease was due, in large part, to the reduced quantities of pork products sold. In comparison with 1939, the overall total for the industry showed an increase of almost 173 per cent.

To the total value in 1945, fresh meats and poultry contributed \$239,631,900; cured, cooked and canned meats and poultry, \$202,752,733; lard and shortening, \$25,418,018; and hides and skins, \$16,029,570. The most important single item was "beef sold fresh", of which the total quantity was 811,946,825 pounds valued at \$157,558,515. Second and third, respectively, were "bacon and sides" -- \$82,939,772 -- and "pork sold fresh" -- \$39,527,959.

The position occupied by each province in respect to the total value of production for the Dominion in 1945 was as follows: Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, combined, two per cent; Quebec, 15 per cent; Ontario, 30 per cent; Manitoba, 21 per cent; Saskatchewan, nine per cent; Alberta, 18 per cent; and British Columbia, five per cent.

Production of Leather Footwear in November

Production of leather footwear was reduced in November, the total being 3,565,800 pairs compared with 3,772,592 in the preceding month and 3,655,440 in the corresponding month of 1945, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Despite the decline in the month, production for the eleven months ended November rose to 40,100,858 pairs from 35,720,446 in the corresponding period of 1945.

Retail Merchandise Trade of Canada

Retail stores in Canada transacted business to the value of \$4,591,885,000 in 1945, according to estimates made available by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. This volume of dollar sales was 11 per cent higher than that for 1944, when sales totalled \$4,123,151,000, and stood 33 per cent above total sales of \$3,440,902,000 in the census year, 1941. The average gain of 11 per cent for Canada as a whole between 1944 and 1945 was approached or exceeded in all sections of the country, increases ranging from 9.7 per cent for the Maritimes to 12.4 per cent for British Columbia.

Chief among the influences which affected retail merchandising during 1945 was the elimination or modification of controls on the production and distribution of certain materials and commodities which took place as hostilities drew to a close. These factors had a very limited effect on prevailing sales trends in trades associated with the distribution of staple consumer needs, while, on the other hand, they did have a noticeable effect on sales trends for durable goods and luxury trades. Thus, food, department, variety, country general and the apparel trades recorded sales expansions in 1945 which closely approximated the overall increase of 11 per cent, whereas higher-than-average sales increases were shown by liquor, automotive and durable household goods stores.

The food group constitutes the largest from the standpoint of consumer expenditures on merchandise. Sales in those stores which comprise this group totalled \$1,110,314,000 in 1945, an amount which exceeds by nine per cent the 1944 sales figure of \$1,017,541,000. Second largest among the groups is that for stores handling a general line of merchandise. Sales for this group totalled \$722,804,000 in 1945, a gain of 10 per cent over the 1944 sales figure. Department stores, which dominate this group, had sales totalled \$516,141,000 in 1945, or more than 70 per cent of the group total. Sales volume of country general stores in 1945 was \$354,684,000, or 10 per cent more than in 1944.

Sales for the automotive group were estimated at \$424,301,000 in 1945, an increase of 21 per cent over 1944 and was among the largest of the gains recorded by the various groups. The level of trading in the automotive field as a whole continues low, however, relative to that prevailing in earlier years, sales being down almost 30 per cent in 1945 below sales in 1941.

Impetus was given to the business of apparel stores during the latter part of 1945 when service personnel began to return to civil life in increasing numbers. Sales for the group as a whole aggregated \$435,894,000, up 10 per cent compared with 1944 volume. Further increases in the availability of building materials and hardware items in 1945 contributed towards an increase of 14 per cent for the lumber and building materials group whose sales totalled \$281,418,000 in 1945 compared with \$247,723,000 in 1944.

Increased supplies of durable consumer goods, particularly radios and household appliances, brought about a fairly large expansion in sales for stores specializing in the distribution of these merchandise items. The furniture-household-radio group recorded an increase of 15 per cent in 1945 over 1944, sales being \$123,520,000 in 1945 and \$107,056,000 in 1944. Volume remains low in relation to earlier years and sales in 1945 were only four per cent higher than 1941.

The rapid expansion in restaurant sales which came about during the war was noticeably curtailed in 1945 when sales increased only four per cent above 1944 volume. Dollar sales for the restaurant group amounted to \$210,465,000 in 1945. Retail sales of liquor stores reached an estimated \$218,134,000 in 1945 compared with \$165,677,000 in the preceding year.

Registrations of Motor Vehicles in 1945

There was a further decline of moderate proportions in the number of motor vehicles registered in Canada in 1945, according to figures issued by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, the total being 1,497,081 as compared with 1,502,567 in 1944. Passenger car registrations fell from 1,177,558 in 1944 to 1,160,058, while commercial vehicles rose to a new high point, increasing from 309,964 in 1944 to 322,829. Fewer motor cycles were registered in 1945, their being 14,194 as compared with 15,045. Revenues from registrations of motor vehicles, drivers, etc. rose from \$30,746,992 in 1944 to \$31,856,834 in 1945.

Car Loadings on Canadian Railways

Car loadings on Canadian railways for the week ended January 11 increased to 71,219 cars from 50,455 cars for the preceding week and 69,528 cars for the corresponding week last year, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Freight loadings during December totalled 295,000 cars compared with 272,000 in the corresponding month of 1945, and the total for the calendar year was 3,690,000 cars compared with 3,627,000 in 1945.

Reports Issued During the Week

1. Retail Merchandise Trade of Canada and the Provinces, 1945 (25 cents).
 2. Slaughtering and Meat Packing and Sausage and Sausage Casings Industry, 1945 (25 cents).
 3. Refined Petroleum Products, November (20 cents).
 4. Petroleum and Natural Gas Production, October (10 cents).
 5. Cement, October (10 cents).
 6. Steel Ingots, December (10 cents).
 7. Production of Leather Footwear, November (10 cents).
 8. Automobile Production, December (10 cents).
 9. Preliminary Report on the Mineral Production of Canada, 1946 (25 cents).
 10. Sales of Manufactured and Natural Gas, November (10 cents).
 11. Salt, October (10 cents).
 12. Third Estimate of Production and Value of Field Crops, 1946 (10 cents).
 13. Financing of Motor Vehicle Sales, December (10 cents).
 14. Fibre Flax Report, (10 cents).
 15. Monthly Review of Business Statistics, December (10 cents).
 16. Automobile Manufacturing Industry, 1945 (25 cents).
 17. Crude Petroleum Industry, 1945 (25 cents).
 18. Natural Gas Industry, 1945 (25 cents).
 19. Steam Railway Employees and Their Compensation, 1926-1945 (50 cents).
 20. Railway Revenue Freight Loadings, December (10 cents).
 21. Car Loadings on Canadian Railways - Weekly (10 cents).
 22. The Motor Vehicle in Canada, 1945 (25 cents).
 23. Asbestos, October (10 cents).
 24. Births, Deaths and Marriages, November (10 cents).
 25. Non-Ferrous Scrap Metal and Secondary Non-Ferrous Ingot, November (10 cents).
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