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Merchandise Export Trade Reaches
Peacetime Record in 1946

Merchandise export trade of Canada in December was valued at \$211,903,000, bringing the total for 1946 to \$2,312,215,000 -- the highest peacetime export trade in history, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The total was lower than in the years 1942 to 1945 when the movement abroad of munitions and war supplies swelled the aggregate, but otherwise exceeded other years of the record by a wide margin. Export trade in 1945 was valued at \$3,218,330,000, and in the five years, 1935-39, the annual average was \$884,536,000.

Newsprint paper was the leading export item during the year with an aggregate value of \$265,792,000, an advance of slightly more than 48 per cent over the preceding year. Planks and boards also moved up, rising from \$98,935,000 in 1945 to \$125,391,000, and wood pulp from \$106,055,000 to \$114,021,000. Total value of wood and paper products exported during the year increased from \$488,040,000 in 1945 to \$625,591,000 in 1946.

Sharp drop in wheat exports from \$475,787,000 in 1945 to \$250,306,000 in 1946, was the chief factor in reducing the total value of agricultural and vegetable product exports from \$819,445,000 to \$578,488,000. Wheat flour exports rose 30 per cent to \$126,733,000. The total value of meats -- chiefly bacon and hams, shoulders and sides -- was \$128,936,000, or \$38,038,000 under the figure for 1945. Fish and fishery products at \$86,486,000, and furs at \$32,291,000, both were higher than in 1945.

Due in the main to a marked decline in the exports of freight automobiles from \$206,730,000 in 1945 to \$43,201,000, and in automobile parts from \$93,852,000 to \$21,110,000, exports included in the iron and its products group fell from \$555,090,000 to \$227,473,000. There was a substantial advance in passenger cars from \$66,000 to \$13,993,000, while more moderate increases were recorded for farm implements and machinery, and engines and boilers, with respective values of \$28,662,000 and \$28,764,000.

In the non-ferrous metals group, aluminum exports fell off sharply during the year, dropping from \$133,567,000 in 1945 to \$56,030,000. On the other hand, lead exports rose from \$9,177,000 to \$16,846,000, nickel from \$54,778,000 to \$55,205,000, and zinc from \$20,373,000 to \$27,769,000. Copper exports were valued at \$37,005,000, down \$3,855,000. Asbestos exports at \$24,473,000, were up \$2,280,000. Chemicals as a group fell from \$111,318,000 in 1945 to \$67,589,000.

With December shipments valued at \$83,868,000, exports to the United States in 1946 aggregated nearly \$888,000,000, over one-third of the total to all countries, as compared with \$1,197,000,000 in 1945. Exports to the United Kingdom, which moved up over the preceding three months to \$59,360,000 in December, totalled \$597,506,000 for the twelve months as against \$963,238,000.

South Africa occupied third place as a market for Canadian merchandise, exports to that country showing marked gains throughout the year and totalling \$68,632,865 as compared with a 1945 figure of \$31,593,023. Exports to Australia in 1946 advanced to \$38,193,663 from \$32,225,763 in 1945, and to Barbados, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago and other British West Indies aggregated \$49,186,570 as against \$42,452,560. Exports to British India were sharply lower at \$49,045,795 as compared with \$307,460,947 in 1945, when shipments of war equipment and materials were heavy.

Among other British Empire countries, exports to Newfoundland in 1946 totalled \$38,228,837 as compared with \$40,515,102; New Zealand, \$16,110,123 (\$19,102,227); British Guiana, \$7,108,618 (\$6,417,575); Eire, \$7,955,757 (\$14,278,282).

Shipments to the Latin American countries as a group showed a large increase during 1946, aggregating \$92,600,000 as compared with \$57,800,000 in 1945, the largest gains being recorded in sales to Argentina, Brazil, Colombia and Venezuela.

Among European countries, exports to France totalled \$74,380,394 as compared with \$76,916,610; Belgium, \$63,637,468 (\$34,617,705); Italy, \$20,387,069 (\$89,470,246); Netherlands, \$33,883,373 (\$39,970,165); Norway, \$19,266,569 (\$7,841,764); Poland, \$22,500,887 (\$9,249,195); Russia, \$17,704,825 (\$58,819,525); Switzerland, \$8,638,981 (\$10,921,964); Sweden, \$9,132,653 (\$4,168,832); and Yugoslavia, \$12,030,003 (\$11,710,521). To China, exports rose sharply to \$42,915,143 from \$6,572,798 in 1945.

Merchandise Imports in November

Furthering advances recorded in recent months, merchandise import trade of Canada moved up to record levels in November, the value being \$198,163,960 as against \$186,392,750 in October and \$142,409,477 in the corresponding month of 1945, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Aggregate value for the first eleven months also advanced to \$1,745,366,751 from \$1,464,583,469 in the similar period of 1945.

The flow of imports from the United States again increased during the month, the total from that country standing at \$149,473,450 -- about 75 per cent of the total from all countries -- compared with \$140,448,180 in October and \$103,274,772 in the corresponding month of 1945. In consequence, the aggregate for the first eleven months of the year advanced to \$1,259,655,595 from \$1,112,503,299 in the corresponding period of 1945.

Imports from the United Kingdom in November were valued at \$14,857,865, practically the same as in the corresponding month of 1945, but, after deducting the value of Canadian goods returned -- military stores and equipment, etc. -- the value rose from \$6,645,871 in November 1945 to \$14,799,745. Eleven-month imports from the United Kingdom were valued at \$189,769,327, an increase of 51 per cent over the total for the corresponding period of 1945, but when the value of Canadian goods returned is deducted, the margin of increase is reduced to 17 per cent, or from \$110,793,281 in 1945 to \$129,770,380 in 1946.

Argentina was the third largest source of supply for Canada's imports in November with a value of \$5,631,468, followed by British India at \$3,390,122, Venezuela \$2,288,153, British Guiana at \$2,146,224, all of which were up substantially over November, 1945. Imports from Australia were valued at \$1,558,394, Cuba \$1,135,788, France \$1,035,252, Honduras \$1,390,425, and Switzerland \$1,325,707.

Gains over November 1945 were almost general among the commodities, the principal exception being in the value of Canadian goods returned. Fruits, sugar, tea, vegetable oils, cotton, wool, artificial silk, rolling mill products, engines and boilers, farm and industrial machinery, automobiles and parts, electrical apparatus, coal, glass and petroleum products, were among the more outstanding increases.

Cheques Cashed Against Individual
Accounts Reach High Point in 1946

Cheques cashed against individual accounts were greater in 1946 than in any other year, the aggregate being \$69,268,000,000, an increase of 1.3 per cent over 1945, the previous maximum, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The total for 1946 was about two and one-quarter times greater than in 1938, the last pre-war year. The gain over 1929, the culmination of the last major economic cycle, was more than 48 per cent.

Cheques cashed in December amounted to \$5,935 million against \$6,085 million in the corresponding month of 1945, a decline of 2.5 per cent. Recessions were shown in Quebec and Ontario, while the three other economic areas recorded advances. The increase for the Maritimes was 1.4 per cent, Prairie Provinces 2.5 per cent, and British Columbia 18.3 per cent; decrease for Quebec was 2.6 per cent, and in Ontario 7.1 per cent.

Cumulative totals for three of the five economic areas showed increases over 1945. The exceptions were Ontario and the Prairie Provinces, where the declines were less than four per cent. The gain in the Maritime Provinces was \$50 million, amounting to 3.2 per cent, or from \$1,554 million to \$1,604 million. The greatest absolute advance was shown in the Province of Quebec, the increase having been \$1,440 million, or 7.5 per cent. The total for the Province reached a high point in history, the amount having been \$20,749 million. The increase over 1938 was 108 per cent, while the advance over 1929 was practically 26 per cent.

Cheques cashed in Ontario were greater in 1946 than in any other economic area. The total was \$30.4 billion compared with \$31.5 billion in the preceding year, the decline being limited to 3.6 per cent. The total in 1946 exceeded that for any other year except 1945. The increase over 1939 was 120 per cent, while a gain of 64 per cent was shown over 1929.

The total for the Prairie Provinces also showed a recession from the high level of 1945. The total was \$11,125 million against \$11,562 million, a decline of 3.8 per cent. Bank debits in British Columbia showed a greater percentage increase than in any other economic area, the total for the year standing at \$5,368 million against \$4,416 million in 1945.

Sales and Purchases of Securities Between Canada and Other Countries during November

Net inflow of capital to Canada in November from sales of securities to all countries amounted to \$5,000,000 as compared with \$1,800,000 in the preceding month and a net outflow of \$400,000 in September, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. During the eleven months ended November 1946, net inflow of capital from these transactions was \$137,400,000 as compared with \$179,400,000 for the corresponding period of 1945.

Sales of securities to all countries in November totalled \$21,700,000 compared with \$22,700,000 in the preceding month and \$43,000,000 in the corresponding month of 1945. Purchases from all countries amounted to \$16,700,000 as against \$20,900,000 in October and \$23,800,000 in November, 1945. Sales during the eleven months ended November aggregated \$393,100,000 as compared with \$350,400,000 in the similar period of 1945, and purchases \$255,700,000 compared with \$171,000,000.

In November, net sales of all securities to the United States amounted to \$5,900,000, while net repurchases from the United Kingdom totalled \$1,000,000. Security trade with other countries was small during the month with a balance of sales of \$100,000.

World Wheat Situation

Unless the rate of bread grain exports from surplus-producing countries can be increased during the first half of 1947, rations in many countries will again be at dangerously low levels, states the Dominion Bureau of Statistics in its monthly review of the wheat situation. While the total world grain crop in 1946 was some 10 per cent larger than the small 1945 crop, the geographic distribution of this increased production limits its most effective utilization in meeting the world's food needs.

Much of the improvement in world grain production in 1946 resulted from record crops of wheat, corn and oats in the United States and a better than average wheat crop in Canada. However, reserves in both countries were depleted at the beginning of the new season and current export requirements have to be met almost entirely from the new crop grain. Consequently, little grain was available in forward positions early in the season and nearly all supplies for export have had to be railed to lake ports and the seaboard from producing areas.

With the transportation systems of both Canada and the United States suffering from equipment shortages and labour difficulties at one time or another during the season, movement of North American grain into world trade was well below expectations during the first half of the crop year. It is estimated by the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations of the United States Department of Agriculture that about seven million long tons of wheat and flour were exported from the United States and Canada during July-December 1946 as compared with about 11.3 million tons for the same period last year.

The decline in exports from North America has forced many importing countries to deplete rapidly the grain supplies available from their own harvests. As these supplies are used up, these countries will have to rely on imports and in many areas the situation is approaching a stage as critical as that existing in the spring of 1946.

Trade reports indicate that the United States plans to ship 400,000,000 bushels of grain by March 31, and to continue shipments at the rate of 56,000,000 bushels per month after March 31 to the end of the season, June 30, bringing the season's export total to between 500,000,000 and 550,000,000 bushels. The increased goal is reported to include 350 million bushels of wheat and flour equivalent or 83 million bushels above the earlier goal.

Canada's exports of wheat and flour in terms of wheat amounted to 14 million bushels during the month of December bringing the total for the first five months of the crop year to 89.3 million bushels. An estimated 226.4 million bushels remained on January 1 for export or carry-over at the end of the crop year.

Stocks and Marketings of Wheat and Coarse Grains

Stocks of Canadian wheat in store or in transit in North America at midnight on January 23 totalled 138,497,965 bushels compared with 142,906,945 bushels on January 16 and 171,661,954 bushels on the corresponding date of last year, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Stocks on the latest date included 134,945,850 bushels in Canadian positions and 3,552,115 bushels in United States positions.

Deliveries of wheat from farms in the Prairie Provinces were lighter during the week ending January 23, the total being 1,796,467 bushels as compared with 3,723,677 in the preceding week. Marketings for the crop year to date -- August 1, 1946 to January 16, 1947 -- aggregated 243,572,892 bushels as compared with 182,221,459 in the similar period of 1945-46.

The following quantities of coarse grains were also delivered from farms in the Prairie Provinces during the week ending January 23, totals for the preceding week being in brackets: oats, 738,463 (1,673,932) bushels; barley, 441,978 (983,307); rye, 23,462 (24,726); flaxseed, 4,940 (3,117).

Wheat Flour Production Reaches New Peak During 1946

Production of wheat flour in December was recorded at 2,350,040 barrels, an increase of 8.3 per cent over the corresponding month of 1945, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Annual output of wheat flour has increased steadily since 1938, and in 1946 an all-time high production of 27,375,239 barrels was established as compared with 25,069,218 in the preceding year. Output for 1946 was almost double that for 1938 when 13,752,011 barrels were produced.

Wheat milled into flour during December amounted to 10,498,514 bushels compared with 9,657,932 in the corresponding month of 1945, and the total for the year was 121,-824,384 bushels compared with 111,277,878 in 1945. The following quantities of coarse grains also were milled during the month, totals for December 1945 being in brackets: oats, 2,350,179 (1,713,320) bushels; corn, 224,513 (177,573); barley, 869,540 (728,187); buckwheat, 8,953 (5,111); mixed grains, 2,402,315 (2,709,273) bushels.

Production of Electric Refrigerators and Washing Machines during November

Stepping up their output to a new high for the year, Canadian manufacturers produced 7,230 domestic-type electric refrigerators in November, being 22 per cent higher than in October, 42 per cent in advance of September, and about double the rate of output for August, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. During the eleven months ended November, 51,500 electric refrigerators were manufactured -- the highest in several years.

Although production of domestic-type washing machines fell 15 per cent in November from October -- the peak month of the year -- output was heavier than in September, Bureau records show. In November, 9,760 washers were turned out compared with 11,433 in October, and 9,383 in September. The decrease was common to all types -- electric, gasoline, and hand models. During the eleven months ended November, 109,164 washers were produced.

Output of Steel Wire and Fencing Moved Higher in November

Production of steel wire and wire fencing in November continued the gains recorded in October over September and the midsummer months of last year when labour disputes resulted in greatly reduced output.

According to figures issued by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, November production of steel wire totalled 21,749 tons as compared with 10,706 in October and 3,746 tons in September. Aggregate output for the eleven months ended November amounted to 195,342 tons.

Steel wire fencing produced in the month totalled 1,239 tons as against 744 tons in October and 241 tons in September, the aggregate for the eleven months amounting to 18,494 tons. November output consisted of 1,137 tons of farm fencing and 102 tons of chain link fabric.

Building Permits at High Level

Climaxing a year of intense activity, the value of building permits issued in December by 169 Canadian municipalities amounted to \$23,388,913 as compared with \$24,224,810 for 199 municipalities in the preceding month and \$15,320,638 for 204 of these areas in December 1945, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

Aggregate value for the calendar year 1946 rose to unprecedented levels, despite the fact that returns are not yet complete for all 204 municipalities included in the survey. Preliminary totals show an aggregate for the year of \$382,028,707 as compared with \$197,187,160 in 1945, \$128,728,465 in 1944, \$60,272,379 in 1939, and with the previous record of \$234,944,549 in 1929.

Permits for the construction of 1,142 new housing units were issued during December 1946, of which 1,069 were entirely new, while 83 were for conversions. In December 1945, 1,613 permits were issued, 1,434 for new buildings, and 179 for conversions. The aggregate value of the new residential permits, including additions, alterations and repairs was \$7,728,222 as compared with \$6,472,177 in December, 1945.

Permits were issued by these municipalities for the construction of 43,823 new dwelling units during the calendar year 1946 as compared with 28,569 in 1945. The 1946 permits included 39,999 for new buildings and 3,629 for conversions. The value of new residential buildings, and additions and repairs to existing ones amounted to \$191,325,371 for the year as compared with \$117,888,831 in 1945.

Department Store Sales in 1946

Department store sales were 19 per cent higher in 1946 than in the preceding year, a gain in dollar value of approximately \$100,000,000, according to preliminary figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Advances were shown in all regions of the country, sales in the Maritime Provinces being up 13 per cent, in Quebec 21 per cent, Ontario 20 per cent, Prairie Provinces 17 per cent and British Columbia 18 per cent.

Sales in December were 16 per cent heavier than in the corresponding month of 1945, and recorded a gain of seven per cent over the preceding month. Unadjusted indexes of sales, on the base 1935-1939=100, stood at 325.1 for December 1946, 279.5 for December 1945, and 304.4 for November, 1946. These results are based on the total sales of departmental firms, and include their mail order business.

Passenger Traffic of Electric Railways

Doubling pre-war volume, passenger traffic on electric railway systems again established a new record in 1945, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Passengers carried on electric cars, trolley buses and motor buses operated by these systems aggregated 1,316,571,540 in 1945 compared with 1,249,707,399 in 1944, 1,177,003,883 in 1943, and 632,533,152 in 1939. The number of electric passenger cars in service increased from 3,500 in 1944 to 3,512, motor buses from 1,437 to 1,454, and trolley buses from 49 to 67.

Accounting for 29 per cent of the total for the Dominion, the Montreal Tramways system transported 385,575,041 passengers in 1945, an increase of 6.8 per cent over 1944. Representing about 23.9 per cent of the all-Canada aggregate, the Toronto Transportation Commission carried 314,879,746 passengers, or 3.6 per cent more than in 1944. British Columbia Electric reported 144,376,774 passengers, an increase of two per cent; Winnipeg Electric, 91,214,876 passengers, up by 11 per cent; and the Ottawa Electric, 60,376,356 passengers, a gain of 3.7 per cent.

Car Loadings on Canadian Railways

Car loadings on Canadian railways for the week ended January 18 increased to 71,894 cars from 71,219 cars for the preceding week and 67,912 cars for the corresponding week of last year, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

Loadings of l.c.l merchandise increased from 15,177 cars in 1946 to 17,244 cars. Grain products, fresh fruits, ores and concentrates, lumber, gasoline and oils, automobiles, trucks and parts and wood pulp and paper, also showed substantial gains. Grain was down 1,471 cars, live stock by 472 cars and coal by 535 cars.

Products Made from Canadian Clays

Sales by concerns making products from domestic clays totalled \$1,231,135 during October compared with \$1,112,137 in the previous month and \$953,041 in October, 1945, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics reports. During the first ten months of 1946 sales aggregated \$9,834,659 as against \$6,718,846 in the similar period of 1945, gains being shown in every month.

Sales of building brick reached the year's highest level for a month in October at 28,579,000 valued at \$701,468, bringing the total for the ten months to 218,234,000 at \$5,353,940 as compared with 149,610,000 at \$3,282,737 in the first ten months of 1946.

October sales of other clay products, figures for the corresponding month of 1945 in brackets, were as follows: structural tile, 12,156 tons at \$140,042 (11,131 tons at \$119,697); drain tile, 1,929,000 at \$75,085 (1,622,000 at \$61,939); sewer pipe, \$121,284 (\$121,025); fireclay blocks and shapes, \$22,117 (\$17,394); pottery, \$116,263 (\$90,139); other clay products, \$54,876 (\$57,483).

Power Laundries and Cleaning and Dyeing Establishments in 1945

Receipts of 602 power laundries, cleaning and dyeing plants in 1945 amounted to \$44,081,170, an increase of 6.4 per cent over the total reported by 626 similar establishments in 1944, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Of the total receipts in 1945, laundry work accounted for \$19,409,414 or 44 per cent; cleaning and dyeing \$21,463,816, or 48.7 per cent; coat and towel supply \$1,857,579, or 4.2 per cent; and all other receipts \$1,350,361, or 3.1 per cent.

Increases in the volume of business handled by power laundries, cleaners and dyers were reported for all provinces except Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia. Receipts for these two provinces combined amounted to \$1,622,121, down 4.4 per cent from the 1944 figure. The value of work performed by these establishments in the other provinces, with the percentage increases over 1944 in brackets, was as follows: Ontario, \$17,123,188 (6.9); Quebec, \$12,082,912 (8.0); British Columbia, \$5,270,786 (8.2); Manitoba, \$2,985,347 (5.4); Alberta, \$2,473,467 (1.2); Saskatchewan, \$1,335,564 (5.6); and New Brunswick, \$1,187,776 (4.8).

Reports Issued During the Week

1. Canadian Grain Statistics - Weekly (10 cents).
2. Canadian Milling Statistics, December (10 cents).
3. Monthly Review of the Wheat Situation (10 cents).
4. Fur Goods and Fur Dressings Industry, 1945 (25 cents).
5. Summary of Canada's Domestic Exports, December (10 cents).
6. Exports of Canadian Produce by Countries, December (10 cents).
7. Building Permits, December (10 cents).
8. Electric Railways of Canada, 1945 (25 cents).
9. Domestic Washing Machines, November (10 cents).
10. Domestic Type Electric Refrigerators, November (10 cents).
11. Steel Wire, November (10 cents).
12. Wire Fencing, November (10 cents).
13. Products made from Canadian Clays, October (10 cents).
14. Sales and Purchases of Securities, Between Canada and Other Countries, November (10 cents).
15. Sugar Report, December 7 to December 31, 1946 (10 cents).
16. Car Loadings on Canadian Railways - Weekly (10 cents).
17. Traffic Report of Railways, October (10 cents).
18. Department Store Sales, December (10 cents).
19. Trade of Canada, November, 1946 (10 cents).
20. Imports Into Canada for Consumption, by Countries, November (10 cents).
21. Canada's Imports for Consumption, by Commodities, November (10 cents).
22. Canadian Grain Statistics - Weekly (10 cents).
23. Power Laundries and Cleaning and Dyeing Establishments, 1945 (25 cents).
24. Cheques Cashied Against Individual Accounts, December (10 cents).

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