



D.B.S. WEEKLY BULLETIN

Dominion Bureau of Statistics

OTTAWA - CANADA



Vol. XVI - No. 20

Saturday, May 15, 1948

--- HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS ISSUE ---

STOCKS OF MEAT held by packers, abattoirs, wholesale butchers and cold storage warehouses on May 1 amounted to 119.8 million pounds compared with 131.9 million on April 1 and 78.3 million on May 1 last year.

. . .

DEPARTMENT STORE SALES increased 20 per cent in April over the same month last year.

. . .

FOREIGN TRADE OF CANADA in March was valued at \$427,956,000, showing a minor increase over the March 1947 figure of \$420,777,000.

. . .

MERCHANDISE IMPORTS in March totalled \$197,100,000, showing a decline of \$11,800,000 from the March 1947 total of \$208,900,000.

. . .

VALUE OF MERCHANDISE EXPORTED in March was \$228,400,000, approximately nine per cent above March last year.

. . .

BALANCE OF TRADE with all countries in March was in Canada's favour to the extent of \$33,900,000 as against \$28,100,000 in the preceding month and \$3,000,000 a year ago.

. . .

PRODUCTION OF CREAMERY BUTTER in April amounted to 18,314,000 pounds, a decrease of 11 per cent from April last year. May 1 stocks were 5,352,400 pounds compared with 11,248,800.

. . .

NUMBER OF DWELLING UNITS completed in Canada in the first three months of 1948 is estimated at 11,569.

. . .

STOCKS OF CANADIAN WHEAT in store or in transit in North America at midnight on April 29 totalled 72,634,000 bushels compared with 76,391,000 on April 22 and 93,997,000 last year.

. . .

CAR LOADINGS on Canadian railways for the week ended May 1 declined to 74,354 cars from 74,677 in the preceding week and 75,165 last year.

CANADA'S FOREIGN TRADE IN MARCH Foreign trade of Canada in March was valued at \$427,956,000, showing a minor increase over the March 1947 figure of \$420,777,000, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. During the first three months of this year the trade aggregated \$1,265,600,000 as compared with \$1,164,000,000 in the similar period of 1947, a rise of almost nine per cent.

Merchandise was imported in March to the value of \$197,100,000, showing a decline of \$11,800,000 from the March 1947 total of \$208,900,000. This was the first decline from the preceding year in the monthly import totals since December 1945 -- a period of 27 months. During the first three months of this year, imports were valued at \$585,300,000 as compared with \$559,800,000 in the like period of 1947.

Value of merchandise exported in March was \$228,400,000, approximately nine per cent above the March 1947 total of \$209,000,000. With higher figures registered for each month of the year, the aggregate for the first quarter advanced to \$672,000,000 from \$597,100,000 in the like period of 1947, or by 12.5 per cent.

The balance of trade with all countries in March was in favour of Canada to the extent of \$33,900,000 as against \$28,100,000 in the preceding month and \$3,000,000 in the corresponding month last year; in the first quarter the favourable balance was \$95,000,000 compared with \$44,400,000 in the similar period of 1947.

The month's debit balance with the United States was \$24,200,000, the lowest monthly figure since December, 1945. In February the debit was \$40,500,000, and in March last year, \$80,200,000. In the first quarter the unfavourable balance was \$107,900,000 compared with \$203,200,000 in the first three months of 1947.

The favourable balance of trade with the United Kingdom in March was \$37,700,000 as against \$33,900,000 in February and \$33,900,000 in March last year, and in the first quarter of this year, \$115,000,000 compared with \$104,700,000 in the same period of 1947.

MERCHANDISE IMPORTS IN MARCH Canada's merchandise imports in March were valued at \$197,100,000, showing a decrease of 5.7 per cent from the March 1947 total of \$208,900,000, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The decline in the month was the first to be recorded from the preceding year since December 1945. During the first three months of this year, imports for consumption totalled \$585,300,000 as compared with \$559,800,000 in the same period of 1947, an increase of 4.5 per cent.

Imports from the United States in March were valued at \$138,299,000 as compared with \$165,116,000 in the corresponding month last year, a drop of \$26,817,000 or almost 16 per cent. The decrease in February was \$1,582,000, or from \$138,429,000 in February 1947 to \$136,847,000. During the first three months of this year, imports from the United States amounted to \$425,122,000 as against \$439,993,000.

Imports from the United Kingdom were higher in March amounting to \$21,601,000 as compared with \$13,826,000 in the same month last year, while the aggregate for the first quarter was \$61,062,000 as compared with \$38,598,000 in the similar period of 1947.

Imports for consumption from the nine leading countries after the United States and the United Kingdom in March this year and last were as follows, totals being in thousands of dollars:

	<u>March 1948</u>	<u>March 1947</u>
Venezuela	\$6,000	\$2,627
Mexico	3,937	1,306
Argentina	2,967	2,324
India and Pakistan	2,843	2,888
British Malaya	2,150	2,842
San Domingo	1,867	2
Australia	1,213	1,526
Cuba	1,198	1,067
Brazil	1,083	1,684

Declines were shown for six of the nine main commodity groups of imports in March as compared with the same month last year. Sharpest drop was registered by the fibres and textiles group, with cotton products showing the most marked decline. The iron and products group was slightly higher, with advances in rolling mill products, farm implements and machinery, and engines and boilers, and declines in automobiles and automobile parts. The non-metallic minerals group moved up, with increases in coal, crude petroleum and petroleum products.

In the agricultural and vegetable products group there were declines in fruits, vegetables, cocoa and chocolate, coffee and chicory, tea and rubber, and advances in grains and products, sugar, and nuts. Group total for chemicals moved higher, but those for animals and animal products, wood, wood products and paper, non-ferrous metals, and miscellaneous commodities were lower.

The following table shows the imports by main commodity groups for March this year and last, figures being in thousands:

	<u>March 1948</u>	<u>March 1947</u>
Agricultural, Vegetable Products	\$24,000	\$28,800
Animals and Animal Products	7,400	7,800
Fibres, Textiles and Products	28,500	37,700
Wood, Wood Products and Paper	6,300	7,600
Iron and Products	60,900	60,400
Non-Ferrous Metals and Products	12,500	13,700
Non-Metallic Minerals, Products	37,400	30,200
Chemicals and Allied Products	10,300	9,900
Miscellaneous Commodities	9,900	12,700

RETAIL SALES HIGHER IN MARCH Dollar volume of retail trade in March was nine per cent higher than in the corresponding month last year, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The influence of Easter buying was an appreciable factor in a 23 per cent gain over February. Sales averaged 11 per cent greater in the first quarter of 1948 compared with the same period of last year. Unadjusted indexes, on the base, 1935-39=100, stood at 244.2 for March, 198.5 for February and 223.3 for March, 1947.

Variety stores have registered a rapidly increasing patronage in the past several months, and sales increases for these outlets have been quite prominent in all parts of the country. March sales showed a gain of 24 per cent over last year, and sales averaged 19 per cent higher in the first three months. Other trades in the general merchandise group -- department stores and country general stores -- reported gains of 10 per cent and seven per cent, respectively, in March.

A substantial part of the department store sales increase was accounted for by apparel and food departments. Family clothing store sales were up seven per cent in the month, while men's wear, ladies' specialty and shoe stores recorded increases ranging from 12 per cent to 15 per cent. Radio and electric stores reported sales 11 per cent higher in March. Hardware store sales were practically unchanged, while furniture merchants sustained a nine per cent decline. The margin of increase for jewellery stores was about the same as in earlier months of the year when March sales were four per cent higher than last year.

Increases for food stores, among the most prominent for several months, showed some moderation in March. This may be due mainly to the fact that there were only four week-ends in March this year and five in March a year ago. Sales were 11 per cent above March last year, the cumulative comparison showed a gain of 15 per cent. Restaurant receipts maintained an even course with sales up four per cent in March and three per cent in the three-month period. Candy store sales moved 43 per cent over March, 1947.

COST-OF-LIVING INDEXES FOR EIGHT REGIONAL CITIES

The Dominion Bureau of Statistics released cost-of-living indexes for eight regional cities for April 1, together with those for March 1 and April 1, 1947.

Between March 1 and April 1 the eight city cost-of-living indexes showed advances ranging from 1.3 points for Vancouver to 0.4 for Saint John. The Dominion index rose 0.8 points. The city increases were principally accounted for by higher prices for food and clothing, although homefurnishings and services also advanced slightly.

The Bureau points out that in interpreting the city indexes, it should be borne in mind that they show month to month changes in living costs in each city, but do not compare actual levels of living costs as between cities. It is incorrect to conclude, on the basis of these indexes, that it costs more to live in one city than it does in another.

The following table compares the latest city and Dominion cost-of-living indexes.

<u>City</u>	<u>April 1, 1947</u>	<u>March 1, 1948</u>	<u>April 1, 1948</u>
	(August, 1939=100)		
Halifax	127.9	145.5	146.2
Saint John	128.5	148.9	149.3
Montreal	132.7	154.0	154.9
Toronto	128.8	148.1	148.6
Winnipeg	126.1	145.6	146.3
Saskatoon	131.7	153.1	153.7
Edmonton	127.5	145.9	146.5
Vancouver	130.1	149.7	151.0
DOMINION	129.6	149.6	150.4

STOCKS OF RAW AND REFINED SUGAR

Refinery stocks of raw sugar on April 17 amounted to 89,932,385 pounds, an increase of 10.6 per cent over last year's corresponding total of 81,312,446 pounds, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Stocks of refined sugar totalled 120,324,918 pounds compared with 162,969,267 pounds, a decline of 26.2 per cent.

STOCKS AND MARKETINGS OF
WHEAT AND COARSE GRAINS

Stocks of Canadian wheat in store or in transit in North America at midnight on April 29 totalled 72,634,023 bushels compared with 76,391,439 on April 22 and 93,996,576 on the corresponding date last year, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Visible supplies on the latest date comprised 72,081,667 bushels in Canadian positions and 552,356 bushels in United States positions.

Deliveries of wheat from farms in the Prairie Provinces during the week ending April 29 amounted to 427,355 bushels as compared with 469,721 in the preceding week, bringing the total for the period August 1-April 29 to 210,597,763 bushels as compared with 271,185,834 in the similar period of 1946-47.

The following quantities of coarse grains also were delivered from farms in the Prairie Provinces during the week ending April 29, totals for the preceding week being in brackets: oats, 188,331 (374,905) bushels; barley, 92,761 (158,979); rye, 3,911 (6,191); flaxseed, 21,604 (13,234).

Overseas export clearances of wheat during the week ending April 29 amounted to 1,428,529 bushels compared with 2,800,953 a year ago, bringing the cumulative total for the crop year to date to 93,929,440 bushels compared with 103,538,803 in the like period of 1946-47.

ACREAGE INTENTIONS FOR
CANADA'S 1948 FIELD CROPS

Canadian farmers have indicated on the basis of their intentions at April 30, that they will seed over half a million fewer acres to wheat in 1948 than they did in 1947. A small decline of about 77,000 acres in barley seedings is also anticipated. These decreases, however, are expected to be more than offset by increases in acreages devoted to other field crops, the estimate for oats being up some 722,000 acres, flaxseed up about 130,000 acres and rye up 386,000 acres over 1947 seedings. Acreage in summerfallow is expected to exceed last year's figures by 425,000 acres, an increase of two per cent.

The acreage in Canada intended for wheat in 1948 is estimated at 23.7 million as compared with 24.3 million acres in 1947. The decrease amounts to a little more than two per cent. Intended wheat seedings in the Prairie Provinces are placed at 22,692,000 acres, down 665,000 acres from the 1947 figure of 23,357,000 acres. Ontario's wheat acreage for harvest in 1948 has increased 135,000 acres over the 1947 level. Little change is anticipated in wheat seedings in the remaining provinces where wheat is a minor crop.

For the Dominion as a whole, farmers intend to seed 11.8 million acres to oats as compared with 11.0 million acres in 1947, an increase of seven per cent. Increased oat acreages are common to all provinces with the exception of the Maritimes, the most significant increases occurring in Ontario, Alberta and Quebec.

The intended barley acreage for Canada is estimated at 7.4 million acres as compared with 7.5 million acres in 1947. A substantial increase (32 per cent over 1947) in barley acreage is anticipated in Ontario, but this is more than offset by prospective declines in Saskatchewan and Manitoba. The intended 1948 flaxseed acreage of 1.7 million acres represents an increase of eight per cent above the 1947 level. The most substantial increase is anticipated in Manitoba. Ontario and British Columbia also show increases, while decreases are expected in Alberta and Saskatchewan. The area of fall rye for harvest in 1948 is placed at 1,162,000 acres, an increase of 38 per cent over last year's harvested acreage. Spring rye seeding intentions are also up 21 per cent from the 1947 level. For all rye the indicated acreage is 1,542,000 acres, 33 per cent above last year.

A three per cent increase over 1947 is anticipated for the all-Canada potato acreage. Increases are indicated for all provinces with the exception of Nova Scotia (one per cent decrease) and Saskatchewan (no change).

SEEDING CONDITIONS VARIABLE
THROUGHOUT CANADA

Seeding conditions have been extremely variable throughout Canada to date this season. Spring is late in the Maritimes but work on the land is well under way in New Brunswick and in south-western areas of Nova Scotia. Conditions in Quebec and Ontario are far in advance of last year. The weather has generally favoured seeding operations. Fall-sown crops have wintered well and over-all prospects are promising. Moisture supplies in the Prairie Provinces are excellent although flooding has created serious problems in local areas. Seeding is under way in some districts of southern Alberta and Saskatchewan and at scattered points in Manitoba. Wet weather and low temperatures have delayed drying however, and seeding cannot become general before the 15th or 20th of this month. In British Columbia a very larger spring has delayed farming operations but warmer weather will permit rapid progress. The fruit crop prospects are promising.

Cold, dry weather has prevailed throughout the Maritime Provinces so far this spring. Work on the land is general in New Brunswick with seeding under way on well drained land in that province and in south-western areas of Nova Scotia. Elsewhere operations have been delayed.

In Ontario and Quebec, in strong contrast to last year, the current season is more advanced than normal. Weather since the latter part of April has generally favoured field work in both provinces. In local areas in Quebec, however, cold, dry weather has retarded operations with the ground thawing out very slowly in some northern districts. Excellent progress has been made in seeding operations throughout most of Ontario and at the present time prospects are considered good for satisfactory yields of field crops throughout the province. In general fall wheat and rye in Ontario suffered little winter-killing.

The spring break-up in the Prairie Provinces was extremely late this year. Dull, wet weather with below normal temperatures has retarded the drying of the land. While seeding has started in some southern areas of Alberta and Saskatchewan and in scattered points in Manitoba it will not become general before the 15th or 20th of this month. Moisture supplies, however, are far above normal in all three provinces with serious flooding occurring in many local areas. Due to the lateness of the season some correspondents consider that there will be a shift in acreage from wheat to coarse grains.

In British Columbia a wet, backward spring, one of the latest on record, has delayed growth and field work throughout the province. With warmer weather, however, recovery should be rapid. Ploughing and seeding operations have been delayed throughout the southern districts and in central and northern areas seeding will not be general for 10 days or two weeks. Present prospects for the fruit crops are excellent. Large crops of strawberries and raspberries are expected and apricots, peaches, cherries and pears are very promising. The apple crop is expected to be larger than in 1947.

VALUE OF 1947 SEED CROPS

Seed crops grown in Canada in 1947 had an estimated value of \$11,600,000, representing a decline of 10 per cent from the preceding year's total of \$12,917,000, according to revised figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Value of the hay crop and pasture seed crops was placed at \$8,997,000 (\$10,490,000 in 1946), and vegetable and field root seeds, \$2,603,000 (\$2,427,000 in 1946).

The value of the 1947 hay and pasture seed crops was as follows by provinces, totals for 1946 being in brackets: Alberta, \$2,971,000 (\$3,010,000); Saskatchewan, \$2,016,000 (\$1,542,000); Ontario, \$1,831,000 (\$3,965,000); Manitoba, \$1,207,000 (\$1,097,000); British Columbia, \$557,000 (\$534,000); Quebec, \$396,000 (\$335,000); Maritimes, \$19,000 (\$7,000).

OUTPUT OF BUTTER AND
CHEESE LOWER IN APRIL

Production of creamery butter in April amounted to 18,314,000 pounds, showing a decrease of 11 per cent from April last year. During the first four months of this year, 46,724,000 pounds were produced compared with 51,366,000 in the similar period of 1947, a reduction of nine per cent. Decreases were registered in all provinces in April with the exception of British Columbia where the advance was nine per cent.

Cheddar cheese production in April totalled 3,300,000 pounds compared with 6,104,000 in the corresponding month last year, a decrease of almost 46 per cent. In the four months ending April, 6,997,000 pounds were produced compared with 11,653,000 in the same period of 1947, a decline of 40 per cent.

Output of concentrated milk products in April rose five per cent, totalling 30,808,000 pounds compared with 29,273,000 a year ago; total for the four-month period was 75,476,000 pounds compared with 78,297,000 a year earlier, a decrease of 3.6 per cent.

STOCKS OF BUTTER, CHEESE
AND EGGS ON MAY FIRST

Stocks of creamery butter in cold storages, dairy factories and in transit on May 1 amounted to 5,352,382 pounds compared with 8,329,188 on April 1 and 11,248,810 on the corresponding date last year. Cheese stocks totalled 21,648,031 pounds compared with 22,442,793 on April 1, and 19,689,639 a year ago.

Stocks of evaporated whole milk held by or for manufacturers on May 1 amounted to 5,129,989 pounds, down sharply from last year's corresponding figure of 20,300,507. Skim milk powder stocks were 4,030,161 pounds compared with 3,768,448. Shell eggs in storage totalled 17,175,230 dozen compared with 13,833,464, while the holdings of frozen egg meats were 9,710,318 pounds compared with 5,770,974.

Poultry meat stocks on May 1 were 16,853,645 pounds compared with 13,326,199 on the corresponding date last year.

STOCKS OF MEAT ON MAY 1

Stocks of meat held by packers, abattoirs, wholesale butchers and cold storage warehouses on May 1 amounted to 119,817,500 pounds as compared with 131,893,300 pounds on April 1, and 78,277,100 pounds on the corresponding date last year, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

Pork stocks totalled 82,881,700 pounds as against 86,939,100 on April 1 and 56,562,000 a year ago, while the holdings of beef amounted to 28,158,100 pounds compared with 35,890,500 on April 1 and 16,369,500 on May 1, 1947.

Holdings of veal were 4,106,500 pounds compared with 2,901,600 on April 1 and 3,157,900 last year, and mutton and lamb, 4,671,300 pounds compared with 6,162,100 on April 1 and 2,187,700 a year ago.

Stocks of lard amounted to 3,341,100 pounds compared with 3,782,600 on April 1 and 1,534,200 on the same date last year.

SECURITY PRICE INDEXES

	<u>May 6, 1948</u>	<u>April 29, 1948</u>	<u>April 8, 1948</u>
	(1935-39=100)		
<u>Investors' Price Index</u>			
(100 Common Stocks).....	111.8	111.7	107.6
76 Industrials	106.4	106.0	102.2
16 Utilities	119.9	121.2	114.2
8 Banks	128.5	128.0	128.9
<u>Mining Stock Price Index</u>			
(30 Stocks)	84.3	84.2	80.4
25 Gold	67.3	66.9	65.9
5 Base Metals	118.0	118.4	108.6

DOMESTIC TYPE ELECTRIC REFRIGERATORS IN MARCH

Production of domestic type electric refrigerators in March totalled 10,374 units as compared with 10,785 in the preceding month and 8,590 in the corresponding month last year, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. During the first quarter of this year, 32,203 units were produced as compared with 24,748 in the similar period of 1947.

Imports of complete electric refrigerators of all types fell off sharply in March, totalling 90 units compared with 630 in the preceding month and 3,030 in the same month last year. Exports were higher, the month's total amounting to 782 units compared with 476 in February and 156 in March, 1947.

SALES OF ELECTRIC STORAGE BATTERIES

Sales of electric storage batteries and parts by principal Canadian producers were valued at \$1,072,750 in March, compared with \$1,148,551 in February and \$1,039,385 in March, 1947, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. During the first three months of this year, sales aggregated \$3,486,659 as compared with \$3,005,787 in the similar period of 1947.

OPERATING REVENUES, EXPENSES OF RAILWAYS IN FEBRUARY

Canadian railways reported operating revenues of \$59,713,347 in February, a gain of 11.8 per cent or \$6,311,113 over the same month of 1947 and approached the all-time high for the month of \$59,740,057 registered in 1944. Freight revenues were up 14.1 per cent at \$47,975,203 but passenger revenues declined 2.8 per cent from February, 1947. Operating expenses continued to increase at \$58,627,272, up 12 per cent or \$6,278,100 with all accounts heavier and operating income consequently declined from a debit of \$1,341,144 to one of \$1,874,706 with taxes up \$512,000 over February of 1947.

Tons of revenue freight carried set a new peacetime record at 12,627,953 tons, up 10.1 per cent over the same month of 1947 while ton mileage increased 18.3 per cent. Passengers carried were down 225,117 or seven per cent despite the extra day in February this year at 2,953,757, but the average length of journey was unchanged at 76 miles. The number of employees was down fractionally with 173,566 receiving a total payroll of \$33,939,658, a 3.0 per cent increase over February, 1947.

CAR LOADINGS ON CANADIAN RAILWAYS Car loadings on Canadian railways for the week ended May 1 declined to 74,354 cars from 74,677 cars for the previous week and 75,165 cars for the corresponding week last year. The decline was all in the western division where flood conditions continued to be a factor. Western grain declined from 6,756 cars in 1947 to 2,565 cars, grain products from 1,778 to 1,328 cars, and ores from 1,136 to 718 cars. L.C.L. merchandise increased from 5,714 to 6,325 cars, but other commodities in the western division showed small changes.

In the eastern division, grain declined from 1,967 cars in 1947 to 727 cars and grain products from 2,039 to 1,617 cars, but practically all other commodities showed increases. The large increases were in coal from 1,294 to 3,341 cars, ores from 1,518 to 2,460 cars and pulpwood from 2,709 to 3,281 cars.

INDEX NUMBERS OF FARM PRICES OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS The index numbers of farm prices of agricultural products as of March 15 was relatively unchanged from the February level, but was substantially higher than on the corresponding date last year. The mid-March figure, on the base, 1935-39=100, stood at 232.2 compared with 231.8 for February and 197.4 for March last year. When compared with the preceding month, gains in this year's March farm prices for potatoes and livestock were offset by declines in the prices of poultry and eggs. Almost every class of agricultural produce considered in the index displayed gains over March last year.

STOCKS OF HIDES AND SKINS AND PRODUCTION OF FINISHED LEATHER Stocks of raw cattle hides held by tanners, packers and dealers at the end of March amounted to 677,000, an increase of nine per cent over the March 1947 figure of 621,800, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Stocks of calf and kip skins increased from 536,300 to 705,400, horse hides from 59,800 to 60,000, and goat and kid skins from 150,700 to 195,600, but sheep and lamb skins fell from 76,900 (dozen) to 61,400 (dozen).

Production of cattle sole leather in March amounted to 2,324,100 pounds compared with 2,822,700 in the same month last year. Output of cattle upper leather totalled 2,931,700 square feet compared with 3,982,800, while the production of glove and garment leather amounted to 391,300 square feet compared with 482,900. Production of calf and kip skin upper leather totalled 1,383,500 square feet compared with 1,189,200 in March last year.

NAILS, TACKS AND STAPLES PRODUCTION IN MARCH Production of wire nails in Canada in March amounted to 7,100 tons compared with 5,700 in the preceding month and 6,500 in March, 1947. During the three months ended March, 19,600 tons were produced as against 18,900 in the like period of 1947. Tonnage shipped during the month amounted to 8,000 tons as against 6,400 in February and 6,700 in March, 1947. Shipments during the three months totalled 21,600 tons compared with 18,300 in the like period of last year.

PRODUCTION OF WIRE FENCING IN MARCH Production of steel wire fencing in March amounted to 2,300 tons compared with 2,000 tons in February and 2,300 in the corresponding month of 1947. During the first three months of this year, 6,600 tons were produced against 6,900 in the similar period last year. Tonnage shipped in March totalled 2,400 tons as compared with 2,400 in February and 3,000 in March, 1947. Shipments in the first three months of this year amounted to 7,500 tons as against 6,600 in 1947.

SHIPMENTS OF ASBESTOS
DURING FEBRUARY

Shipments of asbestos from Canadian mines during February, totalled 50,127 tons, an increase of 18.7 per cent over last year's corresponding total of 42,207 tons. During the first two months of this year, 96,760 tons were shipped against 86,265 in 1947. Exports in February amounted to 44,601 compared with 36,718 tons in the same month last year, bringing the two-month total to 92,368 tons compared with 79,546 in 1947.

LUMBER INDUSTRY OF MANITOBA

Gross value of products of the lumber industry of Manitoba in 1946 was \$2,483,200, showing a minor decrease from the preceding year's figure of \$2,493,400, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Output of sawn lumber amounted to 59,234 M board feet compared with 63,453 M in 1945, with respective values of \$2,290,800 and \$2,364,900. Sawn ties were produced to the value of \$54,500 compared with \$25,400, and lath, \$24,400 compared with \$29,000.

FISHERIES OF NOVA SCOTIA

Fisheries production in Nova Scotia reached a new high point in 1946, the marketed value being \$34,270,761, an increase of 11.6 per cent over the 1945 figure. The quantity caught was 4,227,676 cwt., an increase of 6.9 per cent. Seven varieties of fish passed the million-dollar mark in total marketed value: cod, \$14,872,040; lobsters, \$6,516,470; haddock, \$2,409,529; herring, \$2,218,029; swordfish, \$1,229,769; pollock, \$1,121,920; and mackerel, \$1,084,292.

CANADIAN MENTAL INSTITUTIONS IN 1946

There were 53,423 persons on the books of the 60 Canadian institutions in 1946 devoted to the care and treatment of the mentally sick, mentally defective and epileptic, according to figures contained in the 15th annual report on mental institutions issued by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. In 1945 the number had been 52,246. At the end of the year, 49,163 patients were in residence, 480 were boarding out, and 3,780 were on parole.

First admissions to mental institutions in 1946 numbered 9,752, the highest recorded total during the 17-year period for which statistics are available. The second highest was in 1945 when 9,489 were admitted, while the average number during the 17 years was 8,356. As with the first admissions, the year 1946 showed the highest number of re-admissions with a total of 3,144.

Exclusive of deaths, the number of patients discharged in 1946 was 8,539. Of those discharged, 2,375 or 27.8 per cent had recovered; 4,443 or 52 per cent were improved; 1,128 or 13.2 per cent were unimproved, while the remainder of 593 or 6.9 per cent were discharged without psychosis. Deaths in 1946 numbered 3,112 as compared with 2,955.

Total revenues in 1946 amounted to \$26,978,416, an increase of \$4,344,849 over the preceding year. Of the 1946 total, \$17,085,866 came from provincial governments, \$4,146,099 from the Dominion Government, and \$971,094 from municipal governments. Paying patients contributed \$3,259,516, and revenues from other sources amounted to \$1,515,841.

Total expenditures amounted to \$27,316,218 compared with \$22,950,837 in 1945. Of the 1946 outlay, \$25,447,649 was for maintenance of patients and \$1,868,569 for non-maintenance expenditures.

DEPARTMENT STORE SALES
UP 20 PER CENT IN APRIL

Department store sales increased 20 per cent in April over the same month last year, according to preliminary figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Advances were shown for all sections of the country, with British Columbia and Saskatchewan showing the largest gains of 30 per cent and 25 per cent, respectively. The advance in the Maritimes was 24 per cent, Quebec 16 per cent, Ontario 18 per cent, Manitoba 14 per cent, and Alberta 23 per cent.

BIRTHS, DEATHS AND MARRIAGES

Births registered in March in Canadian cities, towns and villages of Canada having a population of 10,000 and over numbered 14,455, deaths 5,671 and marriages 3,234, as compared with 16,046 births, 5,560 deaths and 3,180 marriages in the corresponding month last year. Increases of two per cent each were shown for deaths and marriages and a 10 per cent decline for births.

SALT PRODUCTION IN FEBRUARY

Production of common salt in Canada in February amounted to 56,756 tons as compared with 54,381 tons in the preceding month and 59,845 tons in the corresponding month last year, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Production for the first two months of this year totalled 111,157 tons against 123,486 tons in the like period of 1947.

Shipments of salt amounted to 54,083 tons compared with 55,975 in January and 42,715 in February, 1947. During January and February, 108,015 tons were shipped or used by producers as against 86,295 in the same months of last year. Imports in February totalled 5,449 tons compared with 15,859 in February 1947, and the exports, 561 tons in February this year as against 157 in February, 1947.

WHITE METAL PRODUCTS INDUSTRY

Gross value of products turned out by the white metal products industry of Canada in 1946 was \$26,129,000 as compared with \$23,222,000 in the preceding year, an increase of 12.5 per cent, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Cost of materials used in manufacturing, exclusive of fuel and electricity, was \$15,851,000 as against \$13,718,000, an increase of 15.6 per cent.

11,569 DWELLING UNITS COMPLETED
IN FIRST QUARTER OF THIS YEAR

The number of dwelling units completed in Canada in the first three months of 1948 is estimated at 11,569, according to the results of a nationwide survey carried out by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics in co-operation with the Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation. During the same period, construction was commenced on 6,678 dwelling units and the number under construction was reduced from 42,215 at January 1 to 37,529 at the end of March. Comparable data are available for 1947 only for the urban centres with a population of 5,000 and over which account for about 80 per cent of the total completions in the first quarter. For these areas, completions in the first three months of 1948 are about 42 per cent higher than in 1947.

Among the provinces, Ontario led in the number of dwelling units completed during the first three months of this year with a total of 4,098, followed by Quebec with 2,887, British Columbia 2,189, Alberta 855, Manitoba 655, Saskatchewan 389, Nova Scotia 251, New Brunswick 209, and Prince Edward Island 36.

Starts were made on 2,196 dwelling units in Quebec during the first quarter of this year, 2,121 in British Columbia, 1,803 in Ontario, 250 in Alberta, 125 in Manitoba, 91 in Nova Scotia, 78 in Saskatchewan, and 14 in New Brunswick.

Dwelling units under construction at the end of March in Ontario numbered 15,042, in Quebec 3,346, British Columbia 6,628, Nova Scotia 2,024, Alberta 1,855, Manitoba 1,785, Saskatchewan 1,145, New Brunswick 531, and Prince Edward Island 173.

The average length of time required to build the dwelling units completed in the first quarter of 1948 was between seven and eight months. About 26 per cent took longer than nine months to complete. On a regional basis, construction time was longest in British Columbia and the Maritimes.

REPORTS ISSUED DURING THE WEEK

1. Steel Wire, March (10 cents).
2. Factory Sales of Electric Storage Batteries, March (10 cents).
3. Domestic Type Electric Refrigerators, March (10 cents).
4. Nails, Tacks and Staples, March (10 cents).
5. Wire Fencing, March (10 cents).
6. Housing Characteristics by Social Areas, Edmonton, 1946 (10 cents).
7. Index Numbers of Farm Prices of Agricultural Products, March (10 cents).
8. Cold Storage Holdings of Meat and Lard, May 1 (10 cents).
9. Intentions to Plant Field Crops. Winter-killing and Spring Conditions, of Fall Wheat, Fall Rye, and Hay and Clover Meadows. Progress of Spring Seeding (10 cents).
10. Telegraphic Crop Report, Canada (10 cents).
11. Retail Sales, March (10 cents).
12. Dairy Factory Production, April (10 cents).
13. Asbestos, February (10 cents).
14. Hides, Skins and Leather, March (10 cents).
15. Imports Entered for Consumption, March (10 cents).
16. Monthly Summary of Foreign Trade, March (10 cents).
17. Leather Footwear Industry, 1946 (25 cents).
18. Electric Vacuum Cleaners, 1947 (10 cents).
19. Stocks of Dairy and Poultry Products, May 1 (10 cents).
20. Dairy Statistics of Canada (Reprint) 1947 (10 cents).
21. Lumber Industry of Manitoba, 1946 (10 cents).
22. Sugar Report, March 20 to April 17, 1948 (10 cents).
23. Seed Crop Values, 1947 (10 cents).
24. Button, Buckle and Fasteners Industry, 1946 (25 cents).
25. Advance Report on the Fisheries of Nova Scotia, 1946 (10 cents).
26. Housing Bulletin No. 2 -- Construction of Dwelling Units in Canada from January 1 to March 31, 1948 (25 cents).
27. Car Loadings on Canadian Railways - Weekly (10 cents).
28. White Metal Products Industry, 1946 (25 cents).
29. Salt, February (10 cents).
30. Births, Deaths and Marriages, March (10 cents).
31. Operating Results of Miscellaneous Retail Stores, 1946 (25 cents).
32. Primary Iron and Steel in Canada (Part II) February (10 cents).
33. Canadian Grain Statistics - Weekly (10 cents).
34. Number of Live Stock on Farms, by Subdivision, Alberta, June 1, 1946 (10 cents).
35. Operating Revenues, Expenses and Statistics of Railways, February (10 cents).

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

STATISTICS CANADA LIBRARY
BIBLIOTHÈQUE STATISTIQUE CANADA



1010729654