



D.B.S. WEEKLY BULLETIN

Dominion Bureau of Statistics

OTTAWA - CANADA



Vol. XVI - No. 28

Saturday, July 10, 1948

--- HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS ISSUE ---

COST-OF-LIVING INDEX, on the base 1935-39=100, advanced one point during May, from 153.3 for May 1 to 154.3 for June 1, almost all of this rise resulting from higher food prices.

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NEW MOTOR VEHICLES sold in May totalled 18,408 units, showing a decline for the second consecutive month.

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DEPARTMENT STORE SALES and inventories both increased in May compared with the same month a year ago.

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CARLOADINGS ON CANADIAN RAILWAYS for the week ended June 26 were 79,020 cars, down over 1,800 cars from the revised total for the preceding week and a slight decline from the 79,065 cars in the same week last year.

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CLAIMS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE benefits filed at local offices of the U.I.C. in May totalled 42,257 as compared with 59,265 in April and 36,199 in May last year.

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CENTRAL ELECTRIC STATIONS produced 4,077,098,000 kilowatt hours in May to reach a new monthly high point.

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DWELLING UNITS COMPLETED in Canada in May totalled 6,284, while starts were made on 11,407.

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STOCKS OF CANADIAN WHEAT in store or in transit in North America at midnight on June 24 totalled 49,706,000 bushels compared with 70,413,000 a year ago.

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CREAMERY BUTTER STOCKS in nine cities of Canada on July 1 amounted to 16,217,000 pounds as against 3,692,000 on June 1 and 25,488,000 last year.

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COAL PRODUCTION IN APRIL amounted to 1,603,000 tons, up sharply from the April 1947 total of 851,000 tons.

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REVENUE FREIGHT loaded by Canadian railways in March totalled 13,242,676 tons -- a new peacetime volume for the month.

CROP CONDITIONS IN CANADA Crop prospects are generally fair to good in Manitoba, eastern and south-eastern Saskatchewan and in southern Alberta. Elsewhere over large areas in Saskatchewan and central and northern Alberta conditions are critical due to lack of moisture.

Timely rains over the greater part of Manitoba have relieved the moisture shortage and crop prospects are much improved. Stands of grain are almost uniformly good and early-sown wheat is beginning to head. Hay crops are also good and haying operations have commenced. Late-sown flaxseed is patchy due to uneven germination. Grasshopper damage is occurring in the Neepawa and Gladstone districts and also around Wawanessa, Morden and Dominion City.

Crop conditions in eastern and south-western Saskatchewan have been fairly well maintained. In other areas deterioration has been quite general. Wheat stands are short with about 60 per cent in the shot blade and about 10 per cent in head. The rye crop, however, ranges from fair to good in most districts of the province. Grasshopper damage has been heavy in south-central, central and west-central districts but the chief cause of the critical crop situation is continued drought.

Crops are suffering from drought over most of the central and northern districts of Alberta. Crop prospects continue to be favourable in southern Alberta and as far north as Red Deer, in the western sections. Only scattered showers were received during the past week and with warmer weather moisture conditions in central and northern districts are poor. Wheat is in the shot blade in many districts though very short in the dry areas. Insect damage as a whole has been slight with some grasshopper activity being indicated. Scattered hail storms have occurred in central and northern districts.

The weather in British Columbia has been generally fine and warm during the past two weeks. Moisture supplies are adequate in the southern parts of the province but in the Peace River and central-interior areas rain is badly needed. Late seeded crops in these areas are spotty as a result. Fall wheat is headed out in all districts and is very promising but spring wheat, oats, barley and flaxseed will be below average. Flooding in the Fraser Valley makes crop forecasting in that area difficult, but in the un-flooded sections of the Valley good crops are looked for.

Frequent rains throughout Ontario during the past 10 days have greatly benefited all grains and late crops, and good yields are now indicated. Potatoes, vegetables and fruit crops are making excellent progress. The fall wheat crop, which is especially good, is beginning to ripen and early-seeded spring grains are heading out in several districts. Pastures have responded to improved moisture conditions and milk flow is being well maintained. In the southern part of the province tobacco and canning tomato crops are making good growth. While frequent showers have been beneficial to crops, they have interfered rather seriously with weed control and haying. Some hay acreage which was cut has been spoiled and with adverse weather conditions there is urgent need in most areas for additional farm help to save the hay crop.

Very little rainfall was received throughout Quebec during the past two weeks with the result hay and pastures suffered somewhat. Recent rains, however, have improved conditions considerably. Grain crops are making satisfactory progress and the condition of pastures is now fair to good. Hay making is in progress with fair to good yields. Generally speaking, all industrial market gardens and fruit crops are now in good condition. Yields of strawberries, however, suffered somewhat from dry conditions. Seeding is now completed in the Maritime Provinces although all farm operations were considerably delayed by excessive rains early in June. With the advent of warm weather all crops are now growing rapidly.

WORLD WHEAT SITUATION With the present outlook for European crops favourable, there is promise of the tight wheat supply situation of the past two or three years being relieved to a considerable extent, according to the monthly review of the world wheat situation by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Excluding Russia, Europe's crop of wheat and rye is tentatively estimated by the United States Department of Agriculture at 2,016 million bushels, which is sharply above the 1947 outturn of 1,493 million bushels and also considerably above the 1946 production of 1,791 million bushels. It is still 300 million bushels below the pre-war average, however, and Europe will again need considerable imports in the coming crop year.

Supplies available from exporting countries from new crops are still an unknown factor, except in the United States where the second largest crop in history is expected. The official forecast now placed the United States winter wheat crop at 877.2 million bushels. No official estimate of the spring crop has been made, but average yields would give a production of 315 million bushels. Prospects for nearly all other crops in the United States are average or better.

Due to the protracted June drought throughout a large part of the wheat-growing area of the Prairie Provinces, the Canadian outlook at present is not so favourable. The wet spring delayed seeding of the major part of the acreage and abnormally high temperatures dried the surface soil, resulting in poor germination and growth of late-sown crops. Grasshoppers are also doing considerable damage. Unless weather conditions are particularly favourable in the next few weeks a large crop cannot be expected this year in Canada.

According to trade reports, Australia has seeded a somewhat smaller acreage to wheat than last year, but recent rains over the greater part of the country should give newly seeded grain a good start. In the Argentine, weather conditions have been favourable also for wheat planting, but it is expected that the acreage will again be on the small side, probably about the level of last year or smaller. A large increase in acreage of spring grains in Russia is reported and, judging from recent reports of agreements made by Russia with several European countries, a volume of export supplies is anticipated.

STOCKS AND MARKETINGS OF WHEAT AND COARSE GRAINS Stocks of Canadian wheat in store or in transit in North America at midnight on June 24 totalled 49,706,000 bushels compared with 50,113,000 on June 17 and 70,413,000 on the corresponding date last year. Deliveries from farms in the Prairie Provinces during the week ending June 24 amounted to 4,188,000 bushels compared with 4,451,000 in the preceding week.

The following quantities of coarse grains were also delivered from farms in the Prairie Provinces during the week ending June 24, totals for the preceding week being in brackets: oats, 1,794,000 (1,851,000) bushels; barley, 1,060,000 (1,140,000); rye, 5,000 (10,000); flaxseed, 123,000 (109,000).

Overseas export clearances of wheat during the week ending June 24 totalled 1,721,000 bushels compared with 5,333,000 in the corresponding week last year.

STOCKS OF RAW AND REFINED SUGAR Refinery stocks of raw sugar on June 12 amounted to 124,069,000 pounds as compared with 111,577,000 on the corresponding date last year, while the stocks of refined sugar totalled 119,219,000 pounds as compared with 160,620,000, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

CONDITIONS OF FRUIT
AND VEGETABLE CROPS

Although it is still too early to estimate production of fruits in 1948 in all provinces, some indication of the trend in production this year can be gained from the information available. With increases in apple production looked for in all provinces but Ontario, the total harvest will exceed that of last season. Pear and plum production, on the other hand, will be lighter than in 1947 while heavier crops of peaches are anticipated in both Ontario and British Columbia.

The cherry crop will be larger in Ontario, but production in British Columbia is expected to be lighter than last year. Apricots in British Columbia, the only producing province, show a substantial increase over the 1947 harvest. Heavier crops of strawberries are expected in all provinces and limited reports indicate an increase in raspberry production. Moderate increases of both grapes and loganberries are looked for.

According to a survey just completed, the contracted acreages of corn, peas and tomatoes in Canada this year are considerably greater than those of a year ago. Only beans show a reduction in acreage since 1947. Contracted acreages, by kinds, with corresponding data for 1947 in brackets, are as follows: beans, 9,570 acres (10,200 acres); corn, 51,750 acres (41,010 acres); peas, 49,190 acres (44,970 acres); tomatoes, 66,560 acres (51,130 acres).

STOCKS OF BUTTER AND CHEESE

Stocks of creamery butter in nine cities of Canada on July 1 amounted to 16,217,000 pounds compared with 3,692,000 on June 1 and 25,488,000 on the corresponding date last year, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Cheese stocks were 21,478,000 pounds as against 14,484,000 on June 1 and 20,417,000 a year ago.

Holdings of creamery butter were as follows by cities, totals for July 1 last year being in brackets: Quebec, 2,069,000 (2,321,000) pounds; Montreal, 6,357,000 (11,921,000); Toronto, 2,671,000 (2,392,000); Winnipeg, 2,103,000 (3,819,000); Regina, 195,000 (266,000); Saskatoon, 203,000 (277,000); Edmonton, 814,000 (1,010,000); Calgary, 580,000 (668,000); Vancouver, 1,225,000 (2,314,000).

STARTS MADE ON 11,400
DWELLING UNITS IN MAY

The number of dwelling units completed in Canada in May was 6,284 as compared with 6,729 in the preceding month, while starts were made on 11,407 units as compared with 8,274, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. An estimated 24,582 units were completed during the first five months of this year while construction was commenced on 26,359. Complete data for 1947 are not available. However, estimates of residential construction in 1947 have been made and, based on these estimates, completions in the five months of 1948 amount to only slightly more than in 1947 while starts are about 15 per cent higher.

The average length of time required to build the dwelling units completed in May was about 7.2 months and most of the dwellings completed were started last year. It will not be until the fall that completions will reflect the high level of starts which has been maintained for the last two months. It is estimated that 32 per cent of the dwelling units completed in the five months of 1948 are for rental purposes.

Starts were made in May on 3,762 dwelling units in Ontario, and 2,803 were completed, while in Quebec 3,019 were started and 1,267 were completed. In Alberta, 1,137 were started and 426 completed, British Columbia 1,072 started (689 completed), Manitoba 958 (503 completed), New Brunswick 530 (103), Saskatchewan 460 (296), Nova Scotia 439 (191), Prince Edward Island 30 (6).

PRODUCTION OF COAL
AND COKE IN APRIL

Production of coal in April amounted to 1,603,000 tons, up sharply from the April 1947 total of 851,000 tons when mines in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick were idle due to strikes. During the first four months of this year, 5,775,000 tons were produced compared with 4,665,000 in the similar period of 1947.

Coke production in April totalled 317,000 tons compared with 334,000 in March and 282,000 in April, 1947. During the first four months of this year, 1,265,000 tons were produced as against 1,217,000 in the like period of 1947.

Imports of coal in April amounted to 1,035,000 tons, a decline of 33 per cent compared with April 1947, while exports totalled 117,000 tons compared with 23,000 a year ago.

PRIMARY IRON AND STEEL IN APRIL

Shipments of primary shapes by Canadian steel mills, exclusive of producers' interchange, amounted to 221,000 net tons in April as compared with 227,000 net tons in March and 207,000 in the corresponding month last year, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The amount of producers' interchange was 86,000 tons in April against 73,000 tons in March and 75,000 in April last year.

Of the amount shipped for sale during April, 53,000 tons went direct to railways and railway car shops; 11,000 tons to pressing, forming and stamping plants; 25,000 tons to merchant trade products; 25,000 tons to building construction; 18,000 tons to the containers industry; 8,000 tons to agricultural equipment; 11,000 tons to the automotive industry; 13,000 tons to machinery plants; 5,000 tons to shipbuilding; 6,000 tons to mining, lumbering, etc., and 3,000 tons to miscellaneous industries.

GOLD MINING INDUSTRY
OF CANADA IN 1946

Canadian production of fine gold in 1946 amounted to 2,832,554 troy ounces valued at \$104,096,359 as compared with the preceding year's output of 2,692,727 troy ounces worth \$103,823,990, according to the annual review of the industry by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The employment situation showed only slight improvement which might account for the increase in quantity of gold, but in July 1946 the Canadian dollar was brought to parity with the United States dollar, thus lowering the price of gold from \$38.50 to \$35.00 per ounce. This price change had an adverse effect on the gold mining industry. Increased costs and limited supply of mining equipment retarded the development of many mines.

Ontario was the largest contributor to the gold production with 64 per cent, followed by Quebec with 21.8 per cent, and British Columbia 4.8 per cent. The balance of the year's output was accounted for by Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Yukon, Northwest Territories, Nova Scotia and Alberta, in that order.

Gold yield, according to the type of deposit or nature of recovery included: in crude gold bullion produced at gold mines, 80.91 per cent; in blister and anode copper, 13.48 per cent; in ores, matte, slags, etc. exported, 3.30 per cent; in alluvial gold, 2.15 per cent; and in base bullion at lead smelters, 0.16 per cent.

The lifting of restriction allowed development of ground previously explored by diamond drilling. The footage drilled on auriferous quartz deposits was 4,984,752, which was more than in the preceding year. During the latter part of the year, diamond drilling activity declined very rapidly.

PRODUCTION OF CANADA'S
LEADING MINERALS

Production of all but three of Canada's 16 leading minerals moved up during April as compared with the same month last year, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The exceptions were feldspar, falling from 2,571 tons to 2,339, lead from 25,850,461 pounds to 25,689,655, and salt from 64,321 tons to 57,861.

The following showed increases in April, with comparative figures for April last year being in brackets: asbestos, 61,590 (60,517) tons; cement, 1,268,461 (1,062,054) barrels; clay products, \$1,607,672 (\$999,807); coal, 1,602,525 (850,887) tons; copper, 41,829,639 (39,947,433) pounds; gold, 286,070 (254,889) fine ounces; gypsum, 222,121 (89,639) tons; lime, 88,462 (82,126) tons; natural gas, 5,302,903 (4,406,115) M cubic feet; nickel, 26,389,468 (20,043,186) pounds; petroleum, 795,724 (602,129) barrels; silver, 1,089,755 (851,464) fine ounces; zinc, 39,088,168 (36,341,332) pounds.

STOCKS OF INGOT MAKERS'
NON-FERROUS SCRAP METAL

Stocks of ingot makers' non-ferrous scrap metal at the end of May amounted to 2,454,000 pounds as compared with 2,488,000 pounds at the first of the month, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Stocks used or sold totalled 3,559,000 pounds and amount purchased or received was 3,525,000 pounds. Stocks of secondary non-ferrous ingot in May aggregated 2,641,000 pounds as against 3,584,000 a month earlier. Amount used or sold totalled 4,436,000 pounds while 3,493,000 pounds were produced.

ASPHALT FLOOR TILES IN MAY

Canadian production of asphalt floor tiles amounted to 1,685,074 square feet in May as compared with 1,629,770 square feet in April, making a total production for the five months ended May of 8,578,802 square feet, according to preliminary figures issued by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Domestic sales in May amounted to 1,383,652 square feet and in the five months to 7,230,193 square feet.

STOCKS OF NON-FERROUS SCRAP METAL

The following were dealers' stocks of non-ferrous scrap metal at the end of April, totals for the first of the month being in brackets: aluminum, 2,922,000 (3,308,000) pounds; brass, 7,204,000 (7,495,000); copper, 3,229,000 (3,334,000); magnesium, 109,000 (114,000); nickel, 239,000 (259,000); tin-lead, 3,456,000 (3,205,000); zinc, 568,000 (724,000); drosses, 1,346,000 (1,277,000).

CLAIMS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE BENEFIT

Claims for unemployment insurance benefit filed at local offices of the Unemployment Insurance Commission in May totalled 42,257 as compared with 59,265 in April and 36,199 in May last year, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Ordinary claims on the live unemployment register at the end of May numbered 70,993 compared with 105,441 at the end of April and 59,410 at the end of May, 1947.

During May, 107,347 persons received one or more benefit payments amounting to \$3,666,566 for 1,887,287 compensated days of unemployment compared with 139,477 persons paid \$5,178,519 for 2,631,964 days in April and 83,982 persons paid \$3,072,952 for 1,584,428 days in May 1947. The average duration of the unemployment compensated was 17.6 days in May, 18.9 days in April and 18.9 days in May last year. The average amount of benefit paid per beneficiary was \$34.16 in May, \$37.13 in April and \$36.59 in May, 1947. The average amount of benefit paid per compensated day of unemployment was \$1.94 in May, \$1.97 in April and \$1.94 in May last year.

COST-OF-LIVING INDEX FOR JUNE 1 The Dominion Bureau of Statistics cost-of-living index, on the base 1935-39=100, advanced one point during May, from 153.3 for May 1 to 154.3 for June 1, almost all of this rise resulting from higher food prices. At the first of June last year the index stood at 134.9. From August, 1939, to June 1 this year the cost-of-living index has advanced 53.1 per cent.

The food index moved up from 191.2 on May 1 to 193.9, due mainly to further advances for meats and vegetables. Butter prices averaged lower. Other changes in group indexes were of lesser proportions. Clothing advanced from 173.6 to 174.8. Scattered advances in coal and coke changed fuel and light from 122.7 to 124.3, and homefurnishings and services moved up fractionally from 161.9 to 162.0.

Removal of the tax on theatre admissions in some areas reduced from 122.9 to 122.7 the miscellaneous items index, which was unchanged the previous month.

SECURITY PRICE INDEXES

	<u>July 2, 1948</u>	<u>June 24, 1948</u>	<u>June 3, 1948</u>
(1935-39=100)			
<u>Investors' Price Index</u>			
(100 Common Stocks)	118.2	119.8	119.8
76 Industrials	112.8	114.1	114.6
16 Utilities	129.2	132.5	130.4
8 Banks	128.6	129.2	128.5
<u>Mining Stock Price Index</u>			
(30 Stocks)	78.8	79.1	82.9
25 Golds	60.0	60.2	65.4
5 Base Metals	116.7	117.1	117.5

OUTPUT OF CENTRAL ELECTRIC STATIONS AT NEW HIGH IN MAY

Output of central electric stations reached a new monthly high point in May, totalling 4,077,098,000 kilowatt hours compared with 3,733,137,000 in the preceding month and 3,917,499,000 in the corresponding month last year, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. During the first five months of this year, 18,827,518,000 kilowatt hours were produced compared with 19,042,253,000 in the similar period of 1947.

Consumption of primary power -- production, less exports and secondary power -- amounted to 3,459,027,000 kilowatt hours in May compared with 3,324,393,000 in April and 3,154,143,000 in May last year. In the five months ended May, the total was 16,830,281,000 kilowatt hours compared with 15,262,970,000 in the like period of 1947.

Exports to the United States in May were 185,842,000 kilowatt hours compared with 166,052,000 in April and 188,648,000 a year ago, the five-month total standing at 750,690,000 kilowatt hours compared with 878,302,000 in the same period last year.

CANAL TRAFFIC IN MAY Traffic using Canadian and United States locks of the Sault Ste. Marie Canals in May reached 15,851,791 tons as compared with 15,122,876 in the corresponding month last year. Shipments of wheat and other grains declined but iron ore increased from 10,823,144 to 11,686,104 tons, pulpwood from 50,100 to 104,061 tons, soft coal from 2,137,969 to 2,300,807 tons, oils and gasoline from 142,303 to 175,344 tons and westbound stone from 218,509 to 280,162 tons.

Total traffic using the Welland Ship Canal in May amounted to 1,880,734 tons compared with 1,766,424 in the same month last year. The large increases were 108,399 tons of iron ore, 26,003 tons of flaxseed, 15,336 tons of pulpwood and 69,054 tons of miscellaneous freight. Shipments of barley, corn, oats and wheat all showed decreases. Soft coal declined by 14,093 tons, sand, gravel and stone by 28,429 tons and iron, pig and bloom, by 16,813 tons.

Due to large decreases in shipments of wheat and coal, total traffic on the St. Lawrence Canals declined to 994,921 tons from 1,063,925 tons in May, 1947. Wheat declined from 266,499 to 223,343 tons, soft coal from 417,139 to 328,932 tons, and corn from 15,690 to 7,317 tons. Flaxseed increased by 19,119 tons, gasoline by 16,425 tons, pulpwood by 14,804 tons and iron ore by 10,190 tons.

CANADIAN RAILWAY CARLOADINGS Carloadings on Canadian railways for the week ended June 26 were 79,020 cars, down over 1,800 cars from the revised total for the preceding week and a slight decline from the 79,065 cars in the corresponding week last year, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Principal commodities showing advances over the corresponding 1947 week were coal, coke, ores, sand, stone and gravel, other mine products, pulpwood, gasoline and petroleum products, iron and steel products, implements, woodpulp and paper, canned foods and l.c.l. merchandise. There were considerable declines in practically all agricultural items, grain dropping from 8,313 to 5,511 cars and grain products from 3,539 to 2,847 cars.

Loadings in the eastern division totalled 53,537 cars, an increase of 1,099 cars over the similar week of 1947, with heavier movements of coal, up from 3,095 to 3,884 cars; coke, ores and concentrates, up 700 cars; other mine products, pulpwood, gasoline, iron and steel, and implements. Agricultural products continued to show declines from last year with grain loadings over 1,500 cars less, grain products down 245 cars, and livestock 190 cars.

In the western division, the backlog piled up by flood conditions began to break up and the total was 25,483 cars compared with 25,107 in the preceding week. The decrease from the similar week of 1947 was 1,144 cars with large recessions in the grain movement.

Cumulative totals for the first 26 weeks reached 1,916,844 revenue cars loaded against 1,871,697 in the same period last year, a half-year increase of 2.4 per cent.

MOTOR CARRIERS IN 1946 Revenues of passenger and freight motor carriers in Canada increased in 1946 to \$102,241,162 compared with \$88,157,490 in the preceding year and \$81,707,604 in 1944, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Increased business was reported by both large and small freight carriers, revenues of the former rising by 9.6 per cent to \$47,032,290 from \$42,902,292 in 1945, and of the latter by about 11 per cent to \$5,125,373 from \$4,608,675.

RAILWAY FREIGHT TRAFFIC AT
PEACETIME PEAK FOR MARCH

Canadian railways hauled 13,242,676 tons of domestic and foreign origin revenue freight during March to register an increase of 378,700 tons or 7.1 per cent over the same month last year. This established a new peacetime volume for the month, exceeded only by March 1944 at 13,525,007 tons. Loadings at stations in Canada advanced 11.2 per cent to 9,396,764 tons compared with 8,451,049 tons one year earlier, while tonnage received from foreign (U.S.) connections dropped from 3,912,924 tons to 3,845,912 or by 1.7 per cent.

Increased loadings were recorded for over March last year in all areas except the Prairie Provinces where lighter grain and coal movements contributed to the decline of 125,205 tons. With restored production in the Nova Scotia coal mines, the provincial total rose from 267,379 tons in March, 1947 to 830,325 tons this year. The Quebec aggregate of tons loaded and received from foreign connections improved from 2,380,872 to 2,504,302 tons, while the Ontario total was up 2.6 per cent or 154,204 tons at 6,091,037 tons for the current March. The British Columbia loadings were up 14,004 tons over the preceding March, at 890,069 tons.

Due to smaller crops in 1947, agricultural products moved during the month were down to 2,030,792 tons against 2,481,379 tons one year earlier but the mining industry was more active contributing 4,468,254 tons against 3,608,015, while forest products increased 349,932 tons at 2,184,166. The manufactures and miscellaneous group rose 130,370 tons over the previous March with 4,334,182 tons of freight hauled during the month.

DEPARTMENT STORE SALES AND INVENTORIES

Department store sales and inventories both increased in May when compared with the same month a year ago, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics reports. A preliminary report issued earlier indicated a sales increase of 13 per cent, while inventories, as of April 30 were 16 per cent above last year.

Largest departmental sales increases were in hardware and kitchen utensils, 21.6 per cent; household appliances and electrical supplies, 20.5 per cent; women's dresses, coats and suits, 19.4 per cent; and shoes and other footwear, 18.5 per cent. Decreases occurred in stationery, books and magazines, 10.7 per cent; radios, musical instruments and supplies, 10.3 per cent; and smallwares, 2.3 per cent.

Inventories increased 31.4 per cent in household appliances and electrical supplies; 31.2 per cent for piece goods; 25.5 per cent for shoes and other footwear; 24.2 per cent in men's and boy's clothing and furnishings. There were decreases in millinery, 8.9 per cent; and girl's and infant's wear, 6.7 per cent.

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 May amounted to 459,300, a decrease of 13.7 per cent as compared with the May 1947 figure of 565,600, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Stocks of calf and kip skins increased from 567,600 in May 1947 to 723,500, goat and kid skins from 131,900 to 244,600, but sheep and lamb skins fell from 58,100 (dozen) to 44,400 (dozen), and horse hides from 73,800 to 39,000.

Production of cattle sole leather in May amounted to 1,389,600 pounds compared with 2,469,400 in the same month last year. Output of cattle upper leather totalled 2,755,200 square feet as against 4,193,400, while the production of glove and garment leather amounted to 291,600 square feet as compared with 418,200. Production of calf and kip skin upper leather totalled 1,148,800 square feet compared with 1,613,700 in May last year.

NUMBER NEW MOTOR VEHICLES
SOLD AGAIN LOWER IN MAY

For the second consecutive month, the total number of new motor vehicles sold in Canada was lower in May than in the preceding month and the corresponding month last year, according to figures compiled by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Aggregate retail value of sales, however, was higher than in May last year.

New vehicle sales in the month totalled 18,408 units with a retail value of \$35,998,962 as compared with 19,007 units at \$36,164,998 in April and 19,105 units valued at \$33,467,905 in May last year. The lower number in May this year was due to a drop in sales of passenger cars, which totalled 10,688 units against 11,603 in April and 12,678 a year ago. The number of commercial vehicles increased to 7,720 compared with 6,427 in May, 1947, and 7,404 in April this year. Value of passenger cars sold in May was \$21,017,528 and of commercial vehicles, \$14,981,434.

During the five months ended May, the cumulative number of new vehicles sold this year was 85,208 and their retail value \$163,083,736 as compared with 86,301 with an aggregate value of \$150,148,444 in 1947. Passenger cars sold in the period totalled 53,211 this year as against 57,364 last year, and their retail value \$101,251,435 against \$97,783,722; while commercial vehicles totalled 31,997 at \$61,832,301 as compared with 28,937 at \$52,364,722 for January-May, 1947.

REPORTS ISSUED DURING THE WEEK

1. Summary of Canal Traffic, May (10 cents).
2. Sugar Report, May 15 to June 12 (10 cents).
3. Population by Single Years of Age, Alberta, 1946 (10 cents).
4. Primary Iron and Steel, April (10 cents).
5. Housing Bulletin No. 4 (10 cents).
6. Canadian Grain Statistics - Weekly (10 cents).
7. Telegraphic Crop Report, Canada (10 cents).
8. Monthly Review of the Wheat Situation, June (10 cents).
9. Sales of New Motor Vehicles in Canada, May (10 cents).
10. Motor Carriers: Freight-Passenger, 1946 (25 cents).
11. Asphalt Floor Tiles, May (10 cents).
12. Department Store Sales and Inventories, May (10 cents).
13. Carloadings on Canadian Railways - Weekly (10 cents).
14. Price Movements (Preliminary), June (10 cents).
15. Advance Report on the Manufacturing Industries of Canada, 1946 (25 cents).
16. Stocks of Canadian Butter, Cheese and Eggs in Nine Cities of Canada, July 1 (10 cents).
17. Coal and Coke Statistics, April (10 cents).
18. Fruit and Vegetable Crop Report (10 cents).
19. Ingot Makers' Report on Non-Ferrous Scrap Metal and Secondary Non-Ferrous Ingot, May (10 cents).
20. Feldspar and Quartz Mining Industry, 1946 (25 cents).
21. Summary Review of the Gold Mining Industry of Canada, 1946 (50 cents).
22. Production of Canada's Leading Minerals, April (10 cents).
23. Monthly Traffic Report of Railways, March (10 cents).
24. Statistical Report on the Operation of the Unemployment Insurance Act, May (10 cents).
25. Dealers' Report on Non-Ferrous Scrap Metal, April (10 cents).
26. Area of Farms Classified by Size of Farm, Prairie Provinces, 1946 (10 cents).
27. Quarterly Bulletin of Agricultural Statistics, January-March (25 cents).
28. The Rubber Industry in Canada, 1946 (25 cents).
29. Central Electric Stations, May (10 cents).
30. Hides, Skins and Leather, May (10 cents).

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