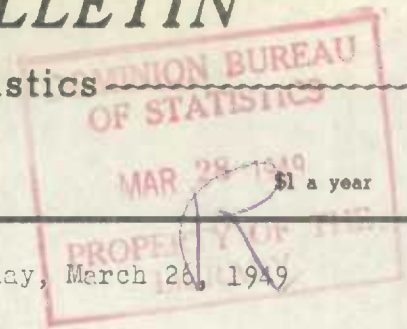


# D.B.S. WEEKLY BULLETIN

Dominion Bureau of Statistics

OTTAWA - CANADA



Vol. XVII - No. 12

Saturday, March 26, 1949

--- HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS ISSUE ---

CASH RECEIPTS OF CANADIAN FARMERS from the sale of farm products reached an all-time high record total of \$2,449,365,000 in 1948, an increase of 25 per cent over the 1947 aggregate of \$1,962,276,000, the previous peak total.

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VALUE OF INVENTORIES HELD BY MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES at the end of January appears to be at approximately the same level as at the end of December.

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DOLLAR VOLUME OF WHOLESALE SALES in January was seven per cent below the December level and was less than one-half of one per cent lower than in January, 1948.

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SALES OF DEPARTMENT STORES in January were valued at \$49,094,000, showing an increase of nine per cent over the corresponding month last year.

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PRODUCTION OF STEEL INGOTS in February increased eight per cent over the corresponding month last year.

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CANADIAN PRODUCTION OF COAL showed a sharp rise of 45 per cent in February over the same month last year.

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PRODUCTION OF DOMESTIC WASHING MACHINES was at an all-time monthly high figure in January, while the month's output of domestic-type electric refrigerators was exceeded only in November last year.

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PRODUCTION AND SHIPMENTS OF IRON AND STEEL WIRE NAILS both were maintained at a high level in January.

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CANADA'S COMMERCIAL FRUIT CROP in 1948 had a total value of \$46,690,000, showing a slight increase over 1947.

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RESIDENTIAL CONSTRUCTION IN CANADA during January showed marked gains over a year earlier, with the number of dwelling units completed and the number on which construction was begun both substantially higher.

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FEBRUARY PRODUCTION OF WHEAT FLOUR showed a marked decline of 18.5 per cent from the same month last year.

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FARM CASH INCOME AT RECORD  
HIGH LEVEL IN 1948

Cash receipts of Canadian farmers from the sale of farm products reached an all-time high record total of \$2,449,865,000 in 1948, an increase of 25 per cent over the 1947 aggregate of \$1,962,276,000, the previous peak total. When supplementary payments are included, cash income in 1948 amounted to \$2,470,611,000 as against \$1,973,853,000 in 1947.

The substantial gain in farm cash income in 1948 can be largely attributed to rising prices and the large sums distributed by the Canadian Wheat Board and western grain companies in the form of grain equalization and participation payments. During the year these payments totalled \$178,590,000, equalling approximately one-third of the gain in the 1948 cash income over 1947.

High levels of domestic purchasing power as a result of full employment and high wages together with a strong world-wide demand for short supplies of producer and consumer goods were important factors affecting the general level of agricultural prices which averaged almost 20 per cent higher than in 1947.

Early in 1948 it was announced that the United Kingdom had agreed to pay Canada higher prices for purchases of bacon, beef, eggs and cheese. As a result of the contract entered into by Canada and the United Kingdom, grade "A" sizeable Wiltshire sides at the seaboard were boosted from \$29.00 to \$36.00 per cwt. and beef prices were increased by varying amounts up to \$3.25 per cwt. The spring price of eggs was advanced five cents per dozen, followed by an additional five-cent increase at July 1 and a further increase of two cents at September 1. Cheese prices were increased from 25 cents to 30 cents a pound at the factory.

Prices of poultry meat were also strengthened during the year as a result of the lowering of the United States tariff on January 1, 1948 and the subsequent substantial shipments southward. On April 1, the initial price to Prairie wheat producers for No. 1 Northorn at the Lakehead was advanced from \$1.35 to \$1.55 per bushel. At the same time the Canadian Wheat Board prepared to disburse payments which made this 20-cent boost retroactive to August 1, 1945. In August, further strength was injected into livestock prices with the lifting of export controls which since September, 1942 had embargoed Canadian shipments to the United States of beef cattle and calves, and beef and calf products.

Advanced marketings during the last quarter of the year helped to increase the total number of cattle and calves passing through commercial channels to a level about 30 per cent higher than in 1947. This, together with higher prices, placed the estimated cash income from this source above the total realized from the sale of any other individual farm commodity. Although the marketings of wheat were somewhat lower in western Canada in 1948 than in 1947, this decline was more than offset by increased prices and somewhat higher marketings in Ontario. As a result, cash income from this source ranked second on the list, followed by dairy products.

Without exception, gains in the cash income from the sale of farm products occurred in all provinces. In absolute terms, the largest gain was registered in Ontario, while on a percentage basis the greatest increase took place in Manitoba.

Cash income follows by provinces in 1948, totals for 1947 being in brackets (excluding supplementary payments): Ontario, \$668,400,000 (\$541,300,000); Saskatchewan, \$520,600,000 (\$429,500,000); Alberta, \$449,000,000 (\$344,000,000); Quebec, \$352,200,000 (\$285,100,000); Manitoba, \$242,900,000 (\$181,400,000); British Columbia, \$101,100,000 (\$92,500,000); New Brunswick, \$44,900,000 (\$38,500,000); Nova Scotia, \$36,600,000 (\$32,200,000); and Prince Edward Island, \$22,500,000 (\$17,800,000). (1)

PRICE INDEX NUMBERS OF COMMODITIES  
AND SERVICES USED BY FARMERS

The composite index number of commodities and services used by farmers, inclusive of living costs, rose to 187.7 in January this year from 175.7 a year ago, but declined 2.4 points from the August, 1948 index of 190.1, as a result of the unusual seasonal decline in wage rates.

For all Canada, the index of farm wage rates fell from 398.4 in August to 352.2 in January, but was still appreciably above the level of 337.8 in January last year. The farm operating equipment and materials index rose to 180.3 as compared with 176.7 in August and 169.8 a year ago. Of the eight equipment and materials sub-groups, increases were shown for five in the August-January period, ranging from 0.8 points for feed to 10.7 points for farm machinery.

Farm family living costs advanced slightly from 169.5 in August to 171.8 in January and was 16.5 points above the index of a year ago. All living costs components, for which indexes were calculated, advanced between August and January. There was no change in the index of tax and interest rates which stood at 127.8. (2)

SALES AND PURCHASES OF SECURITIES  
BETWEEN CANADA AND OTHER COUNTRIES

A feature of the trade in outstanding securities between Canada and other countries in 1948 was the continuance of a small balance of purchases of \$17,900,000, a shade lower than the \$18,000,000 shown for 1947. These small outflows of capital from Canada contrasted with the inflows of capital characteristic of previous years when sales of outstanding Canadian securities to non-residents were substantial.

The volume of transactions increased about 12 per cent in 1948, both sales and purchases rising by approximately the same amount. A change occurred in the purchase balance with different countries. Net purchases of securities from the United States of \$17,800,000, chiefly of United States securities, were higher than in 1947 when they were \$10,500,000, whereas net purchases from the United Kingdom at \$1,500,000 were much less than in preceding years.

The total of sales and purchases in 1948 stood at \$453,100,000 as compared with \$405,600,000 in the preceding year. Sales to all countries were valued at \$217,600,000 compared with \$193,800,000, and purchases from all countries at \$235,500,000 compared with \$211,800,000. Sales to the United States in 1948 totalled \$207,400,000 compared with \$182,300,000, and purchases from that country, \$225,200,000 compared with \$192,800,000. During the year, sales to the United Kingdom were valued at \$4,900,000 compared with \$4,200,000, and purchases, \$6,400,000 compared with \$13,400,000. (3)

PRODUCTION OF COMMON SALT

Production of common salt was slightly lower in January than in December, amounting to 61,000 tons compared with 62,600, but was well above the 54,600 tons produced in the corresponding month last year, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. (4)

WHOLESALES SALES IN JANUARY Dollar volume of wholesale sales in January was seven per cent below the December level and was less than one-half of one per cent lower than in January 1948, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The general unadjusted index of sales, on the base 1935-39=100, stood at 243.2 in January compared with 262.1 in December and 244.2 in January, 1948. Dollar sales of wholesalers in Quebec decreased seven per cent and in British Columbia three per cent. Sales in all other regions were up two per cent.

Wholesalers in the footwear, dry goods and apparel trades reported marked declines in dollar value of sales in January compared with a year earlier. Sales of footwear wholesalers were down 41 per cent, clothing 26 per cent, and dry goods 18 per cent.

Sales of grocery wholesalers were slightly lower than last year, while gains of two per cent, three per cent and four per cent were registered by wholesalers of tobacco and confectionery, hardware, and automotive equipment, respectively. Fruit and vegetable dealers recorded sales nine per cent above last year's level, while drug wholesalers' sales were up 10 per cent.

Total dollar value of stocks in the hand of wholesalers at the end of January were valued 13 per cent higher than on the corresponding date in 1948. Clothing wholesalers' stocks were six per cent lower in value and inventories of footwear wholesalers were 15 per cent lower.

All other trades registered increases in value of inventories. Grocery and drug wholesalers' inventories were five per cent higher in value, automotive equipment seven per cent, and fruit and vegetables 12 per cent. More substantial gains in value of stocks on hand were reported by wholesalers of hardware at 22 per cent, tobacco and confectionery 23 per cent, and dry goods 24 per cent. (5)

DEPARTMENT STORE SALES UP Sales of department stores in January were valued at  
NINE PER CENT IN JANUARY \$49,094,000, showing an increase of nine per cent over the corresponding month last year, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Increases occurred in all provinces, but only in the Maritimes did the advance differ greatly from the average. In this area the increase was 21 per cent, advances in other provinces ranging from 5.4 per cent in Ontario to 12.6 per cent in Alberta.

The month's figure show marked expansion in the sales of piece goods and apparel, furniture, home furnishings, household appliances and electrical supplies, and radios and musical instruments. Hardware departments just failed to equal January, 1948 volume, while there was a substantial reduction in the sales of food departments.

Sales were as follows by provinces, totals for the same month last year being in brackets (thousands omitted): Maritimes, \$3,011 (\$2,489); Quebec, \$7,940 (\$7,158); Ontario, \$18,367 (\$17,434); Manitoba, \$7,464 (\$6,866); Saskatchewan, \$2,333 (\$2,093); Alberta, \$3,199 (\$2,842); British Columbia, \$6,780 (\$6,201). (6)

PRODUCTION AND SHIPMENTS Production and shipments of iron and steel wire nails  
OF NAILS HIGHER IN JANUARY both were maintained at a high level in January. The month's output amounted to 7,193 tons compared with 7,078 in December and 6,854 a year ago, while the shipments totalled 3,524 tons compared with 5,224 in December and 7,211 a year earlier. (7)

FRUIT CROP VALUE SLIGHTLY  
HIGHER IN 1948

Canada's commercial fruit crop in 1948 had a total value of \$46,690,000, showing a slight increase over the 1947 figure of \$46,611,000, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Average prices of most fruits were higher this season than last. Averages for raspberries and grapes were down slightly, and those for strawberries and loganberries were unchanged.

The value of the apple crop fell to \$21,469,000 from \$22,840,000, production amounting to 13,254,000 bushels as compared with 15,619,000 a year earlier. The value of the pear crop was reduced to \$1,788,000 from \$2,178,000, raspberries to \$3,312,000 from \$4,354,000, and grapes to \$2,561,000 from \$3,568,000.

Value of other fruit crops were higher, plums and prunes advancing to \$2,049,000 from \$1,471,000, peaches to \$4,621,000 from \$4,128,000, apricots to \$677,000 from \$327,000, cherries to \$3,047,000 from \$2,128,000, strawberries to \$6,827,000 from \$5,404,000, and loganberries to \$339,000 from \$213,000.

Total value of production in Ontario, Quebec and New Brunswick this year was above the 1947 value, but lower in Nova Scotia and British Columbia. Figures for 1948 follow, those for the preceding year being in brackets: British Columbia, \$25,166,000 (\$25,400,000); Ontario, \$15,279,000 (\$14,181,000); Quebec, \$3,605,000 (\$3,548,000); New Brunswick, \$1,875,000 (\$2,851,000); New Brunswick, \$765,000 (\$631,000). (8)

STOCKS AND MARKETINGS OF  
WHEAT AND COARSE GRAINS

Stocks of Canadian wheat in store or in transit in North America at midnight on March 10 amounted to 140,294,000 bushels, showing a decline of 2,702,000 from the preceding week's figure, but 42,484,000 bushels in advance of the corresponding month last year, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

Deliveries of wheat from farms in the Prairie Provinces during the week ending March 10 amounted to 1,830,000 bushels as against 862,000 a year earlier. Export clearances during the week totalled 2,746,000 bushels compared with 2,307,000.

The following quantities of coarse grains were also delivered from farms in the Prairie Provinces during the week ending March 10, totals for last year being in brackets: oats, 1,016,000 (349,000) bushels; barley, 827,000 (189,000); rye, 88,000 (5,000); flaxseed, 114,000 (11,000). (9)

WHEAT FLOUR PRODUCTION  
LOWER IN FEBRUARY

Canadian production of wheat flour in February showed a marked decline of 18.5 per cent from the same month last year, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The month's output amounted to 1,462,175 barrels as against 1,793,017. This brought the cumulative total for the seven months ending February to 12,348,298 barrels, down 17.2 per cent from the same period last year.

Wheat flour exports dropped to the low figure of 644,590 barrels in February, comparing with 1,104,327 in the corresponding month last year. From the commencement of the present crop year to the end of February, exports aggregated 7,093,672 barrels compared with 8,571,681 in the same period of the preceding crop year.

Wheat used in the manufacture of flour in February amounted to 6,499,288 bushels compared with 8,132,337 in the same month last year, while the total processed in the seven-month period was 55,304,129 bushels compared with 67,559,111 a year ago. (10)

STOCKS OF CREAMERY BUTTER  
IN NINE CITIES OF CANADA

Stocks of creamery butter in nine cities of Canada on March 18 increased for the second successive week, rising to 7,666,000 pounds from 6,350,000 held on the corresponding date last year. Holdings were higher in six of the nine cities, declines being recorded in Winnipeg, Calgary and Vancouver.

According to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, stocks on March 18 were as follows by cities, totals for the comparable date in 1948 being in brackets (thousands omitted): Quebec City, 961 (376) pounds; Montreal, 2,127 (1,785); Toronto, 1,772 (888); Winnipeg, 916 (1,149); Regina, 139 (103); Saskatoon, 178 (63); Edmonton, 320 (300); Calgary, 272 (384); Vancouver, 981 (1,302).

SUGAR STOCKS HIGHER Refinery stocks of raw and refined sugar on February 26 were higher than on the same date last year. According to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, raw sugar stocks rose to 108,198,555 pounds from 91,911,289 a year ago, and refined sugar to 230,586,656 pounds from 150,834,525.

During the four weeks ending February 26, 82,869,597 pounds of refined sugar were manufactured as compared with 67,400,358 a year ago, and domestic sales totalled 75,022,419 pounds compared with 72,127,981. Receipts of raw sugar rose to 93,584,597 pounds from 35,003,524 a year ago, and meltings and sales to 88,946,039 pounds from 73,181,785. (11)

COAL PRODUCTION UP SHARPLY  
IN FEBRUARY; IMPORTS LOWER

With substantial increases in Alberta, Saskatchewan and British Columbia, and a small rise in New Brunswick, Canadian production of coal showed a sharp rise of 45 per cent in February over the same month last year. Nova Scotia's output was slightly lower in the month. Imports were down 25 per cent.

Preliminary figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, place the all-Canada output at 1,673,500 tons as compared with 1,155,000 a year ago, and the imports at 824,000 tons compared with 1,104,000.

Mines in Alberta produced 780,200 tons in February this year compared with 360,200. Total for Nova Scotia was 498,300 tons compared with 521,400, Saskatchewan 209,000 (193,900), British Columbia and Yukon 150,000 (45,600), and New Brunswick 36,000 (33,900). (12)

PRODUCTION OF STEEL  
INGOTS IN FEBRUARY

Canadian production of steel ingots in February increased eight per cent over the corresponding month last year, the month's output amounting to 249,000 tons as compared with 230,200, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Daily average for February rose 12 per cent, amounting to 8,894 tons as compared with 7,937 in February, 1948. (13)

OUTPUT OF COPPER AND NICKEL

Production of new primary copper in January showed a slight decline from the December total, but advanced over the figure for the corresponding month in 1948, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The month's output amounted to 20,805 tons as compared with 20,936 in December and 20,447 in January last year.

Nickel output in January showed a similar trend, amounting to 11,180 tons as compared with 13,028 in December, and 10,774 in the same month a year earlier. (14)

PAINT SALES LOWER IN JANUARY

Sales of paints, varnishes and lacquers by manufacturers which account for all but a small percentage of the total Canadian production, were valued at \$5,539,000 in January as compared with \$6,538,000 in the corresponding month last year. The trade sales, exclusive of water paints, accounted for about 52 per cent of the total, industrial sales for 35 per cent, and water paints for four per cent. (15)

PRODUCTION AND SALE OF RIGID INSULATING BOARD

Production of rigid insulating board in February showed a slight increase over the preceding month, but was lower than a year ago. Domestic sales were up in both comparisons. Output amounted to 20,132,143 square feet as compared with 20,154,793 in January and 15,349,370 in the same month last year. Domestic sales in February rose to 19,802,096 square feet from 19,557,418 in the preceding month and 13,585,393 in the corresponding month a year earlier. (16)

PRODUCTION AND SALES OF ASPHALT ROOFING MATERIALS

Production and sales of asphalt shingles and rolled roofing both were lower in February than in the same month last year. A similar trend was shown for tar and asphalt felts and sheathing, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

Output in February of asphalt shingles and rolled roofing amounted to 207,100 squares as compared with 396,300 in the corresponding month last year. Production of tar and asphalt felts and sheathing during the month totalled 3,300 tons, down from the February, 1948 output of 5,900 tons.

In February, sales declined to 179,200 squares from 363,500 in the corresponding month a year earlier. Tar and asphalt felts and sheathing sold in February fell to 2,600 tons from 5,200 in the similar period last year. (17)

SECURITY PRICE INDEXES

March 17, 1949    March 10, 1949    February 17, 1949

(1935-39=100)

Investors' Price Index

(106 Common Stocks) .....	105.5	107.0	108.0
82 Industrials .....	99.4	101.1	102.0
16 Utilities .....	113.1	113.7	116.1
8 Banks .....	130.2	131.2	130.9

Mining Stock Price Index

(30 Stocks) .....	81.4	83.4	85.5
25 Golds .....	66.5	67.5	68.3
5 Base Metals .....	110.4	114.5	119.5

OUTPUT OF WASHING MACHINES AND  
ELECTRIC REFRIGERATORS AT HIGH LEVEL

Canadian manufacturers turned out an all-time high record number of domestic washing machines in January, while the month's output of domestic type electric refrigerators was exceeded only in November last year, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

Production of washing machines totalled 32,086 as compared with the previous record total of 30,888 for December and 24,006 in the corresponding month last year. There were 31,944 shipped from the factories in January compared with 23,998 a year earlier. At the end of the month, manufacturers' stocks totalled 3,195 compared with 1,266 at the end of January, 1948.

Output of domestic electric refrigerators in January rose to 13,331 from 12,147 in December and 10,244 a year ago. Shipments in the month aggregated 13,187, up from 10,543 last year, while month-end stocks totalled 1,646 as compared with 1,059. (18 and 19)

CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION OF RUBBER

Consumption of rubber showed a moderate decline in January, total for the month standing at 13,924,000 pounds as compared with 15,007,000 in the preceding month, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Natural rubber consumption fell to 7,810,000 pounds from 8,343,000, synthetic to 3,686,000 pounds from 4,021,000, and reclaim to 2,428,000 pounds from 2,643,000.

In terms of end-product use, the consumption of rubber in the production of rubber footwear increased by 154,200 pounds. In the production of tires and tubes including tire repair material, consumption decreased by 813,100 pounds, in wire and cable by 17,000 pounds, and in other products by 407,100 pounds.

Domestic production of synthetic rubber was higher in January, amounting to 10,667,000 pounds as compared with 10,003,000 in December, while the output of reclaim dropped to 731,000 pounds from 786,000.

Month-end stocks of natural rubber rose to 14,363,000 pounds from the December total of 13,952,000, synthetic to 11,437,000 pounds from 9,713,000, and reclaim to 4,389,000 pounds from 4,097,000. (20)

NATIONAL ACCOUNTS, INCOME  
AND EXPENDITURE

The Dominion Bureau of Statistics has issued a bulletin giving the national accounts for the year 1948 on the detailed basis first published in "National Accounts, Income and Expenditure, 1938-1947 (November, 1948)". The current publication contains revisions of earlier estimates for 1947 and 1948.

Table I of this publication gives the summary figures of national income, gross national product and expenditure, and their components. Tables II to V inclusive show transactions for the four main parts or sectors of the economy: the business sector, the personal sector, the government sector and the non-residents' (rest of the world) sector. The sources and disposition of investment income and private saving for all sectors combined are summarized in Tables VI and VII.

Two tables have been included as appendices which show the distribution by provinces of salaries, wages and supplementary labour income, and of net income of agriculture and other unincorporated business, for the years 1938-1947. (21)



RESIDENTIAL BUILDING IN JANUARY  
CONSIDERABLY ABOVE A YEAR EARLIER

number on which construction was begun both substantially higher.

Residential construction in Canada during January showed marked gains over a year earlier, with the number of dwelling units completed and the

Dwelling units completed in the month are estimated by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics at 6,643 as compared with 3,736 in January last year and a monthly average of 6,341 in 1948. The number started also increased to 3,066 as against 1,675 a year earlier. At the end of the month there were an estimated 52,852 units under construction compared with 42,215 last year.

The average length of time required to building the dwelling units completed in January was seven months. This compares with 6.4 months in December and the 1948 low of 5.4 months in September, reflecting the seasonal shift from commencing new dwellings to completing those which have been under construction since last spring.

There were gains in completions during January in all parts of Canada. The number of dwelling units completed in Ontario was 2,449 compared with 1,534 in January, 1948; Quebec, 1,591 (564); British Columbia, 1,346 (864); Prairie Provinces, 932 (610); and Maritime Provinces, 325 (164). Starts were also higher in all regions except the Maritime Provinces. (22)

PRICE INDEX NUMBERS OF  
RESIDENTIAL BUILDING MATERIALS

measures the change in price levels of only those materials required in residential construction. It is an average measurement for the Dominion as a whole.

A residential building materials price index has been developed by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics to meet the need for a more precise measurement of this important part of housing costs. This new index, which is on the 1935-39 base, measures the change in price levels of only those materials required in residential construction. It is an average measurement for the Dominion as a whole.

This new composite index reached a peak annual average figure of 217.5 for 1948, comparing with 180.4 in 1947, and 154.5 in 1946. At the same time the index number of rates of wages in the construction trades advanced to 182.2 from 160.2 in 1947 and 148.7 in 1946.

There are 90 price series in the new index and these have been classified into nine main groups. All nine groups advanced during 1948. The figure for cement, sand and gravel rose from 109.7 in 1947 to 122.3; brick, tile and stone from 133.4 to 143.1; lumber and its products from 242.0 to 305.8; lath, plaster and insulation from 107.3 to 116.7; roofing materials from 172.3 to 201.6; paint and glass from 169.6 to 183.1; plumbing and heating equipment from 145.2 to 168.3; electrical equipment and fixtures from 147.4 to 169.8; and other materials from 143.0 to 162.3.

Figures for earlier years indicate that the index remained relatively stable from 1926 to 1929. Thereafter, in common with the general commodity price level, it fell progressively to touch a depression low of 87.5 in 1932. An intermittent advance subsequently moved building material prices back to an index level of 102.3 by 1939. From 1939 to the beginning of 1946, general wartime activity in the construction industry pushed the index up 47.5 points, although residential construction was sharply reduced.

From the first quarter of 1946, strong demand on both export and domestic markets coupled with the gradual removal of price controls, contributed to a sharp rise from 149.9 (March 1946) to a peak of 229.2 in November, 1948. While the upward movement in this period was general in all component materials, the magnitude of the increase was dominated by a gain of 132.1 points to 325.1 in lumber prices. (23)

VALUE OF MANUFACTURING INVENTORIES Total value of inventories held by manufacturing industries at the end of January appears to be at approximately the same level as at the end of December, the preliminary index on the base 1947=100, standing at 128.3. Revised figures show a small rise during December instead of the slight decline indicated by preliminary returns published earlier. Of the main industry groupings, inventories in the 'consumers' goods industries appear to have decreased in value to a small extent. Inventories in the capital goods industries have increased, after a large drop in December, and the producers' goods inventories show a very slight rise. The construction goods industries appear to have experienced a four-point drop in the inventory value index.

A breakdown of the larger groupings show that, in the consumers' goods group, inventories of durable consumers' goods industries have fallen slightly. The index of stocks in the food industries fell by eight points, due to declines -- most of which follow seasonal trends -- in the fruit and vegetable preparations industry, sugar refineries, dairy factories, and in the fish curing and packing, and slaughtering and meat packing industries.

The tobacco and beverage industry shows a seasonal rise in inventory holdings, while stocks in the petroleum products industry and feed and flour mills have decreased. In the semi-durable consumers' goods group, every large industry -- rubber, clothing, leather footwear, textiles and leather tanneries -- showed a slight rise in inventory values. The majority of industries in the durable consumers' goods group also show small increases, with the exception of the electrical apparatus and supplies industry, where a 10-point drop in the index is indicated.

In the capital goods industries, the rise in inventory holdings was due to comparatively large increases in the shipbuilding and aircraft industries, which more than offset a drop on the railway rolling stock industry. In the producers' goods the coke and gas industry showed a large fall in inventory values, but all other industries increased their holdings to some extent.

In the construction goods group, stocks held in the cement industry have increased seasonally, while in all other industries they appear to have decreased slightly. (24)

JEWELLERY AND SILVERWARE INDUSTRY IN 1947 Value of products manufactured by the jewellery and silverware industry of Canada in 1947 was \$35,552,401 as compared with \$41,528,678 in the preceding year, a decline of 14.4 per cent, according to the annual report by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

There were 176 plants engaged in this line of manufacture in 1947 as against 172 in 1946. The average number of employees was 5,679 as against 6,691, and salaries and wages amounted to \$10,193,396 as compared with \$10,507,305. Materials used in manufacturing processes -- exclusive of fuel and electricity -- cost \$18,457,579 compared with \$22,873,016.

A breakdown of the total number shows 153 plants in the jewellery manufacturing division with an output of \$13,643,940; 16 silverware plants with production at \$11,847,422; and seven occupied in recovering precious metals or preparing gold and silver for use in arts and industries, with a combined output at \$10,061,039. (25)

CARLOADINGS ON CANADIAN RAILWAYS

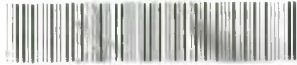
Carloadings on Canadian railways for the week ended March 12 increased to 74,194 cars from 72,671 cars for the previous week, but were slightly below last year's loadings of 74,642 cars. Grain continued heavy at 6,847 cars as against 4,406 in 1948. Coal increased from 5,463 cars last year to 6,014 cars, and gasoline and oils from 3,716 to 4,404 cars, all the increase being in the western division. Livestock declined from 2,085 to 1,624 cars, pulpwood from 7,192 to 5,903 cars, lumber from 3,900 to 3,061 cars, miscellaneous freight from 5,360 to 4,620 cars, and l.c.l. merchandise from 18,384 to 17,990 cars.

Railway revenue freight loadings in February declined to 289,000 cars from 300,000 in the preceding month, but were slightly increased over the February, 1948 figure of 286,000 cars. (26 and 27)

REPORTS ISSUED DURING THE WEEK -- (The numbers in this list correspond with those at the end of news items, indicating the report on which an item is based).

1. Cash Income from the Sale of Farm Products, 1948 (10 cents).
2. Price Index Numbers of Commodities Used by Farmers, January, 1949 (10 cents).
3. Sales and Purchases of Securities Between Canada and Other Countries, December, and Review of Trade During 1948 (10 cents).
4. Salt, January (10 cents).
5. Wholesale Trade, January (10 cents).
6. Department Store Sales and Inventories, January (10 cents).
7. Nails, Tacks and Staples, January (10 cents).
8. Fruit Crop Report (10 cents).
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