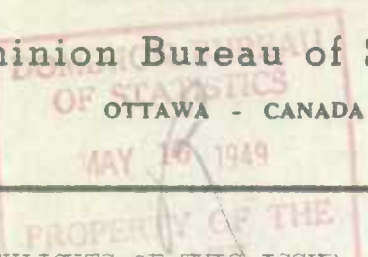




# D.B.S. WEEKLY BULLETIN

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--- HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS ISSUE ---

CANADIAN FARMERS WILL SEED 3,000,000 more acres to spring wheat this year than last, making a total of just under 27,000,000 acres -- 26,000,000 in the Prairie Provinces -- seeded for harvest in 1949, according to indicated intentions at April 30. Decreases are looked for in the other major grain crops.

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CANADA'S CROP SEASON is earlier this year than last with a few exceptions, and is generally favourable. Seeding has begun in the Maritimes and conditions throughout eastern and central Canada are favourable. In the Prairie Provinces, seeding is well advanced, but moisture is deficient over wide areas particularly in Saskatchewan and Alberta. In British Columbia the weather has been warm and seeding is ahead of last year.

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CREAMERY BUTTER PRODUCTION increased 1,640,000 pounds in April to 19,828,000 pounds from 18,188,000 in April last year.

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MARGARINE PRODUCTION in Canada during the first four months of this year totalled 18,069,000 pounds, while stocks held by manufacturers, and in cold storages and other warehouses at the first of May amounted to 948,000 pounds.

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THE INDEX NUMBER OF FARM PRICES OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS continued its general downward trend in March. The index, on the base 1935-39, was 251.1 compared with 252.3 in February and 240.2 in March a year ago.

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INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT in Canada at the beginning of March was at a new high for late winter, the Bureau's index standing at 189.2 compared with 190.5 at the first of February and 188.9 at March 1 last year.

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SALES OF NEW MOTOR VEHICLES totalled 24,637 units in March retailing for \$52,359,305 compared with 20,974 which sold for \$40,688,378 in the same month last year.

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CANADIAN PRODUCTION OF CRUDE PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GASOLINE rose to a new monthly peak in February, amounting to 1,443,000 barrels, seven per cent higher than the previous peak of 1,356,500 in January, and 85 per cent above the 779,800 barrels produced in February last year.

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COST-OF-LIVING INDEXES for four of the eight regional cities recorded increases during March, two were unchanged, and two moved lower.

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ACREAGE INTENTIONS FOR  
CANADA'S 1949 FIELD CROPS

Canadian farmers will seed 3,000,000 more acres to spring wheat this year than last, making a total of just under 27,000,000 acres seeded to wheat for harvest in 1949, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics estimates on the basis of intentions indicated at April 30. At the same time an increase of over a half-million acres in summerfallow in the Prairie Provinces is anticipated, bringing the total summerfallow to 20,600,000 acres.

Decreases are looked for in Canada's other major grain crops. Oats are expected to be down four per cent from last year to 10,800,000 acres and barley down seven per cent to 6,000,000. Extremely sharp declines will occur in seedings of rye and flaxseed, the extent of the change from last year in these two crops being 43 per cent and 75 per cent, respectively. The acreage to be seeded to potatoes this year is five per cent below the 1948 level.

Intended wheat seedings in the Prairie Provinces are estimated at 26,000,000 acres, up 3,000,000 acres from the 1948 level of 23,000,000. Ontario's wheat acreage for harvest in 1949 is currently placed at 762,800 acres, a decline of 16 per cent from the 1948 harvested area. Little change from 1948 is anticipated in the remaining provinces where wheat is a relatively minor crop. Fall wheat has been seeded to some extent in Alberta and Saskatchewan in recent years but official estimates on these seedings are not yet available. It is thought, however, that the total of such wheat on the Prairies is perhaps less than 300,000 acres, most of which is in Alberta. This year it is reported that poor germination and winterkill have taken a heavy toll of the winter cereals seeded in western Canada.

The anticipated increase in wheat acreage in each of the Prairie Provinces is as follows: Manitoba 722,000 acres or 30 per cent; Saskatchewan 1,338,000 or nine per cent; and Alberta 939,000 or 15 per cent. A western wheat acreage of the magnitude indicated (26,000,000 acres) will, if realized, substantially exceed the 1940-48 average of 22,300,000 and would be only about six per cent below the record level of 1940 when 27,800,000 acres were seeded to wheat in the Prairie Provinces.

For the Dominion as a whole, farmers intend to seed 10,800,000 acres to oats as compared with 11,200,000 in 1948, the decline being wholly accounted for in the provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta with either no change or modest increases expected in all other provinces.

The intended barley acreage for all Canada is estimated at 6,000,000 acres as compared with 6,500,000 last year. Declines are anticipated in Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia with increases occurring quite generally from Manitoba eastward. While the anticipated barley sowing of 5,600,000 acres in the Prairie Provinces are lower than in any year since 1941, they are well above the 1931-39 average of 3,300,000. The estimated oats acreage in the Prairie Provinces, however, is the lowest since 1915.

The intended flaxseed sowings of less than half a million acres represented a decrease of 75 per cent from the 1948 acreage of 1,900,000. The greatest decrease is expected in Manitoba where acreage is expected to drop by 80 per cent.

The area of fall rye for harvest in 1949 is placed at 900,000 acres, a decrease of 45 per cent from last year's harvested acreage. Spring rye seeding intentions are down 35 per cent from the 1948 acreage level. For all rye the indicated acreage is 1,200,000 acres, a decrease of 43 per cent from last year. (1)

CROP SEASON EARLIER AND  
GENERALLY FAVOURABLE

With few exceptions the spring season is considerably advanced throughout Canada in comparison with a year ago. Seeding has commenced in the Maritimes and conditions throughout eastern and central Canada are favourable. In the Prairie Provinces moisture is deficient over wide areas, particularly in Saskatchewan and Alberta. Seeding is well advanced but rains are needed to promote germination and to allow satisfactory completion. In British Columbia the weather has been warm and seeding is ahead of last year. Moisture is generally ample and fruit crop prospects are excellent.

The growing season in the Maritime Provinces is from 10 days to two weeks in advance of last year. With few exceptions clovers and grasses have wintered well and are making luxuriant growth. Livestock are being put out to pasture in some of the southern districts. Fruit trees have wintered well, the blossom prospect is good and some sprays have already been applied. Early potato plantings have been started and truck crop planting is advancing.

Except in northern areas, seeding started around the first of May in most sections of Quebec and has progressed rapidly under favourable conditions. Unusually warm weather has promoted rapid growth of meadows and pastures which came through the winter in generally excellent condition. Indications are that fairly substantial acreages will be seeded to coarse grains to supply as much as possible of the farmers' own feeds. While moisture conditions have been satisfactory to date, general rains will be needed to maintain proper germination and growing conditions.

Early season indications point to excellent crop prospects in Ontario. Fall wheat and fall rye wintered well and only moderate damage to hay and clover meadows has been reported. Cool weather during April had a retarding influence on growth of fall-sown cereals, meadows and pastures but this was more than offset by record high temperatures in May. About half the intended acreage of spring crops had been seeded by April 30 and approximately 75 per cent by May 7. Increased acreages are indicated for spring grains, sugar beets, corn for husking and flue-cured tobacco, while decreases are expected in potatoes and flaxseed.

In the Prairie Provinces the proportion of intended acreages seeded is far in advance of last year when cold, wet weather seriously delayed seeding operations. This year the soil is extremely dry, particularly over wide areas of Saskatchewan and Alberta, with precipitation both prior to and subsequent to April 1 far below normal. Immediate rains are required in many districts to promote germination and growth. Farmers in these areas are inclined to delay seeding operations until better conditions prevail. Some soil drifting has occurred in the driest areas and grasshoppers are hatching in some southern sections of all three provinces.

Although the growing season got away to a slow start in British Columbia this year, it has now advanced to the point where it is considered to be about average. During the past week the weather has been generally warm and the seeding of wheat and coarse grains is considerably ahead of that of a year ago. Moisture supplies appear to be ample in all districts except the Okanagan, where irrigation has been started on the lighter soils. Present prospects for fruit crops are excellent. (2)

WORLD WHEAT PRODUCTION OUTLOOK World production outlook for the new wheat crop is, on balance, somewhat less promising than it was a year ago, states the Dominion Bureau of Statistics in its monthly review of the wheat situation.

The United States, with acreage in excess of last year's and generally favourable growing conditions, should equal and perhaps surpass the 1948 production of 1,288 million bushels, but prospects elsewhere in the northern hemisphere are not quite so favourable.

Moisture deficiency in western Canada is causing concern and in Europe a smaller seeded acreage of winter wheat and lack of adequate rainfall indicate a reduction in the outturn of wheat from the 1948 level. In the southern hemisphere seeding is progressing in Australia and Argentina under generally favourable conditions and there have been no indications to date of any appreciable changes in acreage from last year.

In the United States, prospects are quite favourable for the winter wheat crop to be harvested in June and July. An official estimate, based on conditions at April 1, places the United States winter wheat crop at 1,020 million bushels which, if realized, would make it second only to the 1947 record crop of 1,068 million and about three per cent above the 1948 winter wheat production of 990 million.

The acreage of spring wheat in the United States, based on farmers' seeding intentions has been placed at 20.4 million acres and this, too, represents an increase over last year's seeded area. Given favourable conditions between now and harvest, there appears to be little doubt that the United States should have its sixth consecutive billion-bushel wheat crop.

Official estimates of farmers' seeding intentions in Canada will not be available until May 12 but it was generally conceded earlier in the season that some increase in wheat acreage would take place. In view of the rather serious moisture deficiencies in some areas of the Prairie Provinces, however, some modification may have been made in original seeding intentions. Pre-seasonal rainfall throughout most of the Prairies was much below normal and the situation had not improved to any extent up to April 25. The lack of moisture, together with prospects of rather serious grasshopper infestations in some areas, is causing concern but favourable weather conditions could do much to offset the effects of both factors.

In Europe, both planted acreage and crop conditions indicate some declines in crop production in 1949 compared with the favourable 1948 harvest, according to reports received by the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations, United States Department of Agriculture. In many countries acreages seeded to winter wheat are well below the official targets, and in several, including the United Kingdom, Ireland, Sweden, Germany and Greece, acreages are definitely below last year's. Abandonment of fall-sown crops has been light but there is a general need of widespread rains to prevent crop deterioration. Conditions for spring planting have been generally favourable so that total crop acreages will probably be maintained with some shift to coarse grains and other spring crops. (3)

WORLD GRAIN EXPORTS  
IN FIRST HALF CROP-YEAR

World exports of grain and grain products during the first half of the current crop season were nearly five per cent greater than in the corresponding period of the previous (1947-48) season, totalling 17,938,600 long tons (in grain equivalent) as against 17,110,000 long tons.

Approximately 73 per cent of this season's first-half total consisted of breadgrains, namely wheat, including flour, and rye. Exports of these amounted to 13.1 million tons compared with 12.6 million tons in the first half of the 1947-48 year, according to the Bureau's monthly review of the wheat situation. Shipments from the United States accounted for 55.6 per cent of the breadgrain total compared with 55 per cent the previous year. Canada supplied 21.1 per cent against 23.8 per cent; Australia, 12.9 compared with six per cent; Argentina, 4.2 (10.9); and all other countries, 6.2 (4.3) per cent.

The remainder of the total exports, consisting of coarse grains -- namely corn, oats, barley and grain sorghums and millet, amounted to 4.9 million tons compared with 4.6 million in the first half of the previous year. Argentina was the principal shipper of coarse grains with 31.5 per cent compared with 49.6 per cent in the 1947-48 period, and was closely followed this season by the United States with 30.7 per cent as against 35.1 per cent. Canada supplied 10.7 per cent, sharply up from 0.6 per cent; Australia, 4.7 (1.1); and all others, 22.4 (13.6) per cent.

European countries took 65.2 per cent of the larger world grain exports during the first half of this season as compared with 69.9 per cent during the first six months of 1947-48, the total declining to 11,700,600 long tons compared with 11,974,100 long tons. European imports of breadgrains were 516,000 tons lower than the previous year, but those of coarse grains were 243,000 tons higher. There were large reductions in imports of wheat flour and rye, but imports of wheat as grain were much greater. In the case of coarse grains, continued heavy imports of barley and increased imports of oats and grain sorghums offset a substantial decline in corn imports.

Countries in the Asiatic and Pacific area, the second destination in importance for world grain exports, took 18.5 per cent of the overall total this year as against 18.4 per cent in the previous year, wheat and wheat flour showing a marked increase and corn and barley being lower. Caribbean and Latin American countries figured as the third most important destination, taking 6.3 per cent compared with 5.8 per cent, the bulk of shipments consisting of wheat and wheat flour, with the latter substantially higher and wheat lower. African areas received 5.3 per cent of the total, up from 2.7 per cent in the 1947-48 period, wheat and corn showing a large increase and wheat flour a substantial reduction. (3)

VALUE OF SEED CROPS

The value of the hay and pasture seed crops grown in Canada in 1948 is currently estimated at \$20,156,000, up sharply from the 1947 value of \$9,118,000, according to revised figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Increased production of alfalfa, red clover and sweet clover were chiefly responsible for the advance. The value of field root and vegetable seed crops remains unchanged since February, standing at \$1,983,000, and compares with the 1947 value of \$2,603,000. (4)

STOCKS AND MARKETINGS OF  
WHEAT AND COARSE GRAINS

Stocks of Canadian wheat in store or in transit in North America at midnight on April 28 amounted to 118,551,000 bushels, down 2,218,000 from the preceding week's total, but 45,917,000 higher than on the corresponding date last year, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

Farmers in the Prairie Provinces marketed 2,345,000 bushels of wheat during the week as compared with 427,000 in the same week last year. Clearances of wheat for export totalled 2,360,000 bushels compared with 1,833,000 a year ago.

The following quantities of coarse grains were also delivered from farms in the Prairie Provinces during the week ending April 28, totals for the same week last year being in brackets: oats, 1,814,000 (188,000) bushels; barley, 1,012,000 (93,000); rye, 179,000 (4,000); flaxseed, 133,000 (22,000). (5)

PRODUCTION OF CREAMERY  
BUTTER AND CHEESE

Continuing the gains of recent months, creamery butter production increased 1,640,000 pounds in April to 19,828,000 pounds from 18,188,000 in April last year. This raised the total for the first four months of this year to 49,946,000 pounds as compared with 46,562,000 in the similar period of 1948, an increase of seven per cent.

Cheddar cheese production in April rose 40 per cent, amounting to 4,917,000 pounds compared with 3,504,000. In the cumulative period, 7,560,000 pounds were produced as against 7,091,000 a year earlier, an advance of seven per cent.

Output of concentrated milk products in the month amounted to 35,229,000 pounds as against 31,038,000 in the corresponding month last year, up 14 per cent. Production for the year-to-date increased to 91,511,000 pounds from 78,116,000 in the like period of 1948, a rise of 17 per cent.

A gain of four per cent was recorded in ice cream production in the month, the total standing at 1,900,000 gallons as compared with 1,830,000 a year ago, bringing the output for the four months ended April to 5,415,000 pounds compared with 5,324,000, a gain of two per cent. (6)

STOCKS OF BUTTER, CHEESE  
AND EGGS ON MAY 1

Stocks of creamery butter on May 1 amounted to 13,332,000 pounds, showing a slight increase over the April 1 figure which stood at 12,728,000 pounds, but sharply higher than the total of 5,331,000 pounds held on May 1 last year, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

Cheese stocks on May 1 totalled 24,026,000 pounds as compared with 24,663,000 on April 1 and 22,247,000 a year ago. Stocks of evaporated whole milk held by or for manufacturers rose to 18,016,000 pounds from 14,987,000 on April 1 and 5,130,000 a year earlier, while the stocks of skim milk powder advanced to 10,072,000 pounds from 7,700,000 on April 1 and 4,079,000 last year.

Stocks of shell eggs on May 1 amounted to 579,000 cases as compared with 391,000 on April 1 and 586,000 a year ago. Holdings of frozen eggs totalled 186,000 cases compared with 166,000 on April 1 and 256,000 last year.

Holdings of poultry meat were lower on May 1, amounting to 6,087,000 pounds as compared with 7,983,000 on April 1 and 16,820,000 on the same date last year. (7)

PRODUCTION AND STOCKS  
OF MARGARINE IN CANADA

Margarine production in Canada during the first four months of this year amounted to 18,069,000 pounds, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics which is now collecting figures on this product monthly. Output in January was 1,030,000 pounds, February 3,354,000, March 7,331,000, and April 6,354,000.

Stocks of margarine held by manufacturers, and in cold storages and other warehouses at the beginning of May amounted to 948,000 pounds, comprising 65,000 pounds in the Maritimes, 683,000 in Ontario, 89,000 in Manitoba, 62,000 in Saskatchewan, 23,000 in Alberta, and 26,000 in British Columbia.

Production and stocks in Newfoundland are not included in the above totals, but will be shown when administrative arrangements for the collection of statistical data from that province have been completed.

STOCKS OF MEAT ON MAY 1

Stocks of meat held by packers, wholesale butchers, and cold storage warehouses on May 1 were slightly higher than on April 1, but sharply lower than on the corresponding date last year, amounting to 79,837,000 pounds compared with 78,202,000 on April 1 and 120,855,000 a year ago.

Holdings of frozen meat were down to 48,083,000 pounds from 83,991,000 a year ago, and cured meats to 16,245,000 pounds from 22,006,000. Stocks of fresh meats were moderately higher at 15,509,000 pounds compared with 14,858,000.

Lard stocks at 4,879,000 pounds were well above last year's corresponding total of 3,457,000. (8)

INDEX NUMBERS OF FARM PRICES  
OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

The index number of farm prices of agricultural products continued its general downward trend in March, to reach its lowest level since May last year. The peak for this index was registered in August last year. At the March level, the index was 1.7 points below that of February, 12.9 points below August, but 3.6 points above May and 10.9 points higher than in March last year.

The index for March this year, on the base 1935-39, was 251.1 compared with 252.8 in February and 240.2 in March a year ago. As compared with the preceding month there were increases in provincial indexes for Alberta and British Columbia, but declines in the remaining provinces, while in the 12 months there were increases in all provinces except Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick.

Compared with a year ago, March prices were higher for all agricultural products included in the general index except grains, potatoes, vegetables and furs. Compared with the preceding month, the decline of 1.7 points was largely attributable to a lowering of prices for dairy products and poultry and eggs. (9)

DEPARTMENT STORE SALES  
UP 15 PER CENT IN APRIL

Department store sales in Canada were 15 per cent higher in April than in the corresponding month last year, according to preliminary figures. All provinces showed substantial gains in the month, led by Alberta with a rise of 27 per cent, Saskatchewan 23 per cent, the Maritimes 21 per cent, and Manitoba 20 per cent. The gain in Ontario was 13 per cent, British Columbia 12 per cent, and Quebec 10 per cent.

Department store sales advanced seven per cent during the week ending April 30 over the corresponding week last year. Largest gain of 17 per cent was shown in Alberta, followed by the Maritime Provinces with 16 per cent, Manitoba 16 per cent, Saskatchewan 11 per cent, British Columbia four per cent, Ontario three per cent, and Quebec one per cent.

COST-OF-LIVING INDEXES FOR  
EIGHT REGIONAL CITIES

Cost-of-living indexes for four of the eight regional cities recorded increases during March, two were unchanged and two moved lower, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Further recessions in food prices, notably butter, were counter-balanced by increases in clothing, homefurnishings and services, miscellaneous items and rentals.

The composite index for Saint John rose 0.1 points between March 1 and April 1 to 155.9, Toronto 0.2 to 154.8, Saskatoon 0.2 to 161.6, Edmonton 0.1 to 154.3, while that for Montreal fell 0.1 to 161.9, and Vancouver 0.2 to 160.5. Halifax at 152.3 and Winnipeg at 153.8 were unchanged. In the same period the Dominion index gained 0.1 to 158.0.

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

	<u>April 1, 1948</u>	<u>March 1, 1949</u>	<u>April 1, 1949</u>
	(August 1939=100)		
Halifax .....	146.2	152.3	152.3
Saint John .....	149.3	155.8	155.9
Montreal .....	154.9	162.0	161.9
Toronto .....	148.6	154.6	154.8
Winnipeg .....	146.3	153.8	153.8
Saskatoon .....	153.7	161.6	161.8
Edmonton .....	146.5	154.2	154.3
Vancouver .....	151.0	160.7	160.5
Dominion .....	150.4	157.9	158.0

The city indexes show changes in living costs for each city and compare the extent of the rise or fall between cities. They do not, however, compare actual levels of living costs.

SECURITY PRICE INDEXES

	<u>May 5, 1949</u>	<u>April 28, 1949</u>	<u>April 7, 1949</u>
	(1935-39=100)		
<u>Investors' Price Index</u>			
(106 Common Stocks) .....	106.4	105.4	106.7
82 Industrials .....	100.2	98.9	100.0
16 Utilities .....	114.1	113.9	116.5
8 Banks .....	132.3	132.1	132.4
<u>Mining Stock Price Index</u>			
(30 Stocks) .....	84.2	84.9	85.9
25 Golds .....	70.5	71.6	71.7
5 Base Metals .....	110.5	110.2	113.2



INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT AT MARCH 1  
DOWN FROM FEBRUARY; UP FROM LAST YEAR

Industrial employment in Canada at the beginning of March was at a slightly lower level than at February 1, according to data furnished the Dominion Bureau of Statistics by 19,938 leading firms in the eight major industrial divisions whose working forces declined 0.7 per cent in the month. The trend has been downward at March 1 in seven of the last 10 years, the latest percentage loss being slightly greater than the average in the decade.

Despite the decline from February, the index number of employment, on the base 1926=100, was at a new high for late winter, standing at 189.2 compared with 190.5 at the first of February and 188.9 at March 1 last year.

Accompanying the minor recession in employment generally at March 1 as compared with February 1 was a decrease of 0.2 per cent in the index of weekly payrolls. As compared with March 1 last year, however, there was a rise of 9.5 per cent. The average earnings per employee reached a new peak figure of \$43.17 as compared with \$42.92 at February 1, and \$39.50 a year ago.

Declines of 6.2 per cent in logging and 2.9 per cent in construction were reported at March 1 compared with a year earlier, the losses being seasonal in character. Largely as a result of industrial disputes in asbestos mining, employment in the mining group as a whole fell by 1.8 per cent. There was a reduction of 1.1 per cent in hotels and restaurants, and 0.4 per cent in trade. On the other hand, activity rose slightly in manufacturing, there being a gain of 0.1 per cent at March 1 as compared with February 1. Communications showed an increase of 0.8 per cent, while employment in the larger financial institutions advanced 0.4 per cent. (10)

HIGHWAY TRAFFIC AT  
CANADIAN BORDER POINTS

Highway traffic crossing the international boundary into Canada during March was six per cent heavier than in the same month last year, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The increase was due to greater volume of Canadian traffic returning from the United States which rose 23 per cent. United States traffic entering Canada showed a minor decrease of less than one per cent.

First-quarter totals for this year place highway border crossings at 1,327,000, showing an advance of 12 per cent over the same period of 1948. As in March a large part of the rise was due to increased volume of returning Canadian traffic, up from 327,700 a year ago to 427,400. In the same period United States entries increased from 855,800 a year ago to 899,800. (11)

PRODUCTION OF ELECTRIC  
ENERGY HIGHER IN MARCH

Reversing the moderate downtrend of the past several months, output of electric energy by central electric stations showed an advance of four per cent in March over the corresponding month last year to reach the highest monthly total since May last year. Due to the rise in March, the total for the first quarter of this year was slightly above that for the same period of 1948. All provinces except Quebec shared in the rise both in the month and quarter.

The month's output amounted to 3,923,721,000 kilowatt hours compared with 3,758,-566,000 in March last year. In the first quarter of this year 11,022,918,000 kilowatt hours were produced compared with 11,005,563,000 in the similar period of 1948.

Consumption of primary power rose in the month to 3,601,670,000 kilowatt hours from 3,466,686,000 in the same month last year, and in the first quarter to 10,120,-766,000 kilowatt hours from 10,035,085,000. Gross exports to the United States in March were 175,018,000 kilowatt hours compared with 140,019,000, and in the first quarter to 488,395,000 kilowatt hours compared with 398,827,000. (12)

CRUDE PETROLEUM OUTPUT  
GAINS AGAIN IN FEBRUARY

Continuing the gains of preceding months, Canadian production of crude petroleum and natural gasoline rose to a new monthly peak in February. The rise in the month was principally due to sharply increased output in the Leduc and Redwater fields of Alberta. Production from Turner Valley was lower.

Output in February from all sources in Canada amounted to 1,443,000 barrels, seven per cent higher than the previous peak of 1,356,500 in January, and 85 per cent above the 779,800 barrels produced in February last year. During the first two months of this year, output totalled 2,799,500 barrels as against 1,557,400 in the similar period of 1948, an increase of 79 per cent.

Alberta accounted for 1,352,100 barrels in February as compared with 665,700 a year earlier. Leduc's output rose sharply to 735,100 barrels from 141,100, and Redwater to 184,300 barrels from nil. Crude output from Turner Valley fell to 299,100 barrels from 380,100.

The month's output from wells in Saskatchewan amounted to 51,900 barrels compared with 66,000 a year ago, Ontario 17,400 barrels compared with 12,100, New Brunswick 1,600 barrels compared with 1,400, and the Northwest Territories 20,000 barrels compared with 34,700.

During the month, 7,127,400 M cubic feet of natural gas were produced as compared with 7,911,000 in the preceding month and 6,513,200 in the corresponding month last year. Output in Alberta totalled 6,233,500 M cubic feet compared with 6,892,700 a month earlier; Ontario, 812,600 M (907,900 M); Saskatchewan, 43,200 M (68,300 M); and New Brunswick, 38,100 M (42,100 M). (13)

MOTOR VEHICLE SALES  
UP SHARPLY IN MARCH

Sales of new motor vehicles -- below 1948 levels in the first two months of the year -- jumped sharply upward in March, increasing 18 per cent in number and 29 per cent in value over the corresponding month last year. The month's gain was due mainly to larger sales of passenger cars. During the first three months of this year, sales rose six per cent in number and 17 per cent in dollar value above the similar period last year.

According to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics sales in March totalled 24,637 units retailing for \$52,359,305 compared with 20,974 which sold for \$40,688,378 in March, 1948. In the first quarter of this year, sales of 50,625 units for \$108,524,877 compared with 47,871 vehicles for \$93,180,503 a year earlier.

The number of passenger cars sold in March was 16,970 with a retail value of \$35,791,018 -- 25 per cent higher in number and 39 per cent in value than the 13,540 sold for \$25,668,823 a year earlier. There were 7,594 trucks sold in March valued at \$15,277,448 compared with 7,375 units with a value of \$14,002,789 last year, a gain of three per cent in number and nine per cent in value. Buses sold in March this year totalled 73 vehicles with a retail value of \$1,290,839 compared with 59 units sold for \$1,016,766 the year before, up 24 per cent in number and 27 per cent in value.

In the first quarter, sales of passenger cars totalled 31,222 units with a retail value of \$66,416,182 as compared with 30,959 with a value of \$58,132,476 in the same period of 1948. Truck sales were 15 per cent greater in number and 20 per cent higher in retail value than last year, amounting to 19,229 units valued at \$38,913,620 compared with 16,765 valued at \$32,457,048. Bus sales in the cumulative period aggregated 174 vehicles sold for \$3,195,075 against 147 valued at \$2,590,979, increases of 18 per cent in number and 23 per cent in value. (14)

MOTOR VEHICLE SHIPMENTS  
CLIMB IN MARCH

Factory shipments of Canadian-made motor vehicles rose sharply in March over February and January, but were below the level of March last year, while the total during the first three months of this year was below the totals for the first quarter of both 1947 and 1948.

Combined shipments for sale in Canada and for export totalled 25,566 units in March compared with 17,197 in February and 27,112 units in March, 1948. Aggregate for the three months was 56,626 units as against 60,209 for the same quarter last year and 61,522 in 1947.

Of the month's total, shipments for domestic sale accounted for 23,743 units as compared with 15,672 in February, most of the increase being due to a rise in passenger cars, which numbered 16,069 as against 8,529. Shipments of commercial vehicles increased to 7,674 compared with 7,143 units, and comprised 7,626 trucks and 48 coaches or buses.

Export shipments amounted in March to 1,823 units, consisting of 988 passenger cars and 835 commercial vehicles. Shipments of vehicles imported from the United States totalled 646 units, of which 498 were passenger cars. Totals for the quarter were: for export, 5,625; imported from the United States, 1,967 units. (15)

PRODUCTION OF WASHING MACHINES Production of domestic washing machines in February fell below the all-time record monthly figure for January, but was still well above the 1948 level.

According to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics the month's output stood at 29,300 units compared with 32,100 in January and 23,600 in the corresponding month last year. During the first two months of this year, 61,400 units were turned out compared with 47,500 in the similar period of 1948.

Producers shipped 29,700 units during February compared with 31,900 in January and 23,200 in the same month last year, raising the two-month total to 61,600 units compared with 47,300 a year earlier. Stocks at the end of February totalled 2,900 units compared with 1,500 last year. (16)

PRODUCTION OF LEADING  
MINERALS IN FEBRUARY

The upward trend in the output of Canada's 16 leading minerals was continued in February, asbestos, lead, lime and silver registering the only decreases as compared with the corresponding month last year. In the first two months of this year, asbestos, lead and silver were lower than in the similar period a year earlier.

According to figures compiled by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, output for February was as follows by items, totals for February last year being in brackets: asbestos, 26,148 (50,127) tons; cement, 910,064 (647,179) barrels; clay products, \$1,161,612 (\$949,733); coal, 1,685,665 (1,155,109) tons; copper, 43,080,072 (38,224,248) pounds; gold, 307,472 (261,603) fine ounces; gypsum, 127,467 (40,040) tons; iron ore, 559 (-) tons.

Lead production amounted to 21,253,020 pounds (25,931,866 pounds in February, 1948); lime, 74,269 (76,046) tons; natural gas, 7,127,366 (6,513,150) M cubic feet; nickel, 21,726,093 (19,365,922) pounds; petroleum, 1,443,006 (779,841) barrels; salt, 55,640 (54,084) tons; silver, 936,372 (1,035,568) fine ounces; zinc, 40,026,824 (35,053,442) pounds. (17)

CARLOADINGS ON CANADIAN RAILWAYS Carloadings on Canadian railways for the week ended April 30 amounted to 74,119 cars compared with 73,840 in the preceding week and 74,354 in the corresponding week last year, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. (18)

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. Intentions to Plant Field Crops. Winter-killing and Spring Conditions of fall Wheat, Fall Rye, and Hay and Clover. Progress of Spring Seeding (10 cents).
2. Telegraphic Crop Report, Canada (10 cents).
3. Monthly Review of the Wheat Situation, April (10 cents).
4. Seed Crops, 1948 (10 cents).
5. Canadian Grain Statistics - Weekly (10 cents).
6. Dairy Factory Production, April (10 cents).
7. Stocks of Dairy and Poultry Products, May 1 (10 cents).
8. Holdings of Meat and Lard and Tallow, May 1 (10 cents).
9. Index Numbers of Farm Prices of Agricultural Products, March (10 cents).
10. Employment Situation at Beginning of March, Together with Payrolls (10 cents).
11. Highway Traffic at Canadian Border Points, March (10 cents).
12. Central Electric Stations, March (10 cents).
13. Petroleum and Natural Gas Production, February (10 cents).
14. Sales of New Motor Vehicles, March (10 cents).
15. Motor Vehicle Shipments, March (10 cents).
16. Domestic Washing Machines, February (10 cents).
17. Production of Canada's Leading Minerals, February (10 cents).
18. Carloadings on Canadian Railways - Weekly (10 cents).
19. Monthly Dairy Review of Canada, March (10 cents).
20. Railway Revenue Freight Loadings, March (10 cents).
21. Miscellaneous Foods Industry, 1947 (25 cents).
22. Slaughtering and Meat Packing and Sausage and Sausage Casings, 1947 (25 cents).
23. Transit Report, January (10 cents).
24. Trade of Canada: Exports of Canadian and Foreign Produce, March (25 cents).
25. Monthly Traffic Report of Railways, January (10 cents).
26. Births, Marriages and Deaths, February (10 cents).
27. Pack of Apples and Apple Products from 1948 Crop (10 cents).
28. Products Made from Canadian Clays, February (10 cents).
29. Sheet Metal Products Industry, 1947 (25 cents).

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

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