

## WEEKLY BULLETIN

Dominion Bureau of Statistics

Department of Trade and Commerce

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Increase in Sale of New Passenger Cars

The sale of 5,494 new passenger cars in April, marked an improvement of 46.6 per cent over the 3,747 cars sold in March, and also showed a gain of 1.3 per cent over the 5,421 cars sold in April, 1932. The retail value amounted to \$5,423,901 in April, \$3,756,899 in March and \$5,894,702 in April, 1932. Trucks and buses sold in April, numbered 593, showing an increase of 58.1 per cent over the 375 sold in March, and a decrease of 44.7 per cent compared with 1,073 sold in April, 1932. The retail value was \$586,391 in April, \$379,598 in March, and \$939,017 in April, 1932.

Raw Sugar Imports in April

Raw sugar imports in April totalled 9,739,900 pounds, of which 7,499,900 came from British Empire countries and 2,240,000 from foreign. The countries of origin were: British Guiana 3,937,000, Fiji 2,329,000, San Domingo 2,240,000, Trinidad 1,113,500, Jamaica 74,800, Barbados 45,100. Refined sugar totalling 120,200 pounds came from the United States.

April Coal Production

The Canadian production of coal in April amounted to 641,398 tons, a decrease of 37 per cent from the average for the month during the past five years of 1,018,722 tons. Bituminous coal output in April totalled 498,800 tons, sub-bituminous, 30,374 tons, and lignite coal, 112,224 tons. Nova Scotia mines produced 247,127 tons as compared with 291,970 tons in April, 1932. Alberta's output during April was 236,825 tons or 6.4 per cent below the total for the corresponding month of 1932. A decline of 32.7 per cent was recorded in the production from British Columbia mines; the April output was 99,047 tons as against 147,194 tons a year ago. Production in New Brunswick rose to 24,587 tons from the April, 1932, total of 10,015 tons. Saskatchewan operators reported an output of 33,712 tons in April; a year ago 37,360 tons were produced. There was a small production of lignite coal in Manitoba during April.

April Importation of Coal

Importations of coal into Canada in April totalled 431,799 tons, a decline of 30 per cent from the April, 1928-1932 average of 616,403 tons. Receipts of anthracite coal in April were recorded at 150,054 tons, made up of 86,437 tons from Great Britain and 63,617 tons from the United States. There has been a very large decrease this year in the importation of United States anthracite and a large increase in British anthracite. During the first four months of 1932 the quantities were: United States 597,740 tons, British 89,951. In the same period of 1933 quantities were: United States 421,653, British 179,850. The British importations, therefore, have doubled.

Canadian Railways in March

Gross revenues of Canadian railways for March amounted to \$20,611,506 compared with \$25,024,515 for March 1932. Operating expenses were reduced from \$22,550,599 to \$19,160,745 and the operating income from \$1,607,526 to \$519,985. The total pay roll was reduced by \$2,641,604, or from \$15,174,792 to \$12,533,187, and the number of employees was reduced by 19,093, or 13.8 per cent. The average passenger train earnings fell from \$1.64 per train mile to \$1.34 and the number of passengers per train was reduced from 37.6 to 32.0. For the three months, January-March, gross revenues were \$55,042,743 in 1933 and \$69,438,628 in 1932 and the operating income was a debit of \$3,365,636 in 1933 and a credit of \$300,818 in 1932.



### Balance of International Payments

The 1932 balance of Canada's international payments shows an excess of credits, exclusive of capital movements, amounting to \$72,000,000. Commodity trade was favorable to the extent of \$80,000,000. There was an unfavorable balance of "invisible" items (all items exclusive of commodities, gold and capital, and including the omission and error estimate) of \$128,000,000. Net gold exports in terms of Canadian currency were \$67,000,000. Gold and commodity favorable balances less the unfavorable balance in invisibles, leaves a net favorable balance of \$23,000,000.

In 1931, Canada's balance of international payments had shown an excess of credits over debits (excluding capital movements) amounting to approximately \$28,000,000, which compared with an excess of debits amounting to \$159,000,000 in 1930 and \$65,000,000 in 1929.

In 1932 there was an export of capital that, on balance amounted to \$23,000,000. That occurred through the sale and purchase of securities, including repurchases, redemptions, sinking funds, maturities, direct investments by other countries in Canada etc., the whole involving \$175,000,000.

Receipts from tourists showed a favorable balance of \$150,000,000, the largest credit balance in Canada's international accounts. Net interest payments constituted the most serious adverse item, a difference of \$192,000,000. Among other invisible items the chief net debits were: Freight \$20,000,000, and exchange \$14,000,000. The principal net credit was insurance which amounted to \$7,000,000.

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### Estimated Balance of Payments between Canada and Great Britain

The principal items in international payments between Canada and Great Britain are the commodity trade and interest receipts and payments, the figures for which are not subject to arbitrary estimation. In 1932, Canada had a favorable commodity trade balance with Britain amounting to approximately \$103,000,000, but an unfavorable balance in interest payments of approximately \$79,000,000. As all other items, exclusive of capital movements, nearly offset each other, a difference of \$24,000,000 favorable to Canada remained. This balance, however, was again offset by capital items, including debits of \$50,000,000 and credits of \$24,000,000. Only a small balance of slightly over \$1,000,000 remained unaccounted for.

The near approach to balance should not be taken as conclusive. Our debits and credits with London would not be settled on the basis of our commercial transactions in goods and services with that country alone. London is the clearing centre for most Empire countries. Our debits and credits with India, Australia and Fiji, New Zealand, South Africa, etc., would probably mostly be settled through London. It is the clearing centre for many foreign transactions as well. So that in the end we might find that, although on the basis of our transactions confined to Canada and Great Britain alone the accounts were in balance, when all transactions settled through London were taken into consideration, we might be debtor to London or vice versa. The situation is still further complicated by the fact that London's transactions mostly come through New York.

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### Estimated Balance of Payments Between Canada and the U.S.

The estimated adverse balance of payments between Canada and the United States in 1932 was \$22,570,000, including capital movements. During the twelve years prior to 1932 Canada's commodity trade balance with the United States was adverse, on the average, to the extent of \$225,000,000 per year. The important invisible items in the international account are tourist traffic, interest and freight. Heavy net interest and freight payments must be made to the United States, while Canada has a large balance in her favour from tourist traffic. As a matter of fact, during the last few years, tourist receipts have been sufficient to more than offset our payments for interest and freight. Other invisible items practically balanced. In some years, heavy shipments of gold, of which Canada is now producing about \$60,000,000 per year, have further reduced the adverse balance to about \$22,570,000.

For many years until 1931, no difficulty was experienced in meeting our adverse balance. Expansion had been so great that capital movements were easily adequate to meet it. Indeed, in the period 1924 to 1928, Canadian prosperity was such that we became during those years, a capital exporting country. In 1929 and 1930 we resumed the role of capital importers.



In 1931 and 1932 the meeting of our obligations to the United States was much more difficult because the flotation of capital issued in New York ceased in the latter part of 1931. In 1932, tourist net receipts practically offset net interest, freight and exchange payments. Gold shipments in Canadian funds amounted to \$67,000,000. Other invisible items were adverse to the extent of approximately \$10,000,000. The commodity adverse balance which had declined to \$107,000,000 in 1931, less than one-half the average for twelve years, was still further reduced to \$85,000,000. Capital items included debits of \$55,000,000 for maturities, \$65,000,000 for other capital debits and \$123,000,000 credit for sales.

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#### Export Clearances of Wheat

Export clearances of wheat for the week ending May 26 amounted to 4,671,172 bushels compared with 4,631,152 for the previous week and 3,992,200 for the corresponding week last year. Clearances by ports were, the figures in brackets being those of a year ago: Week ending May 26: Montreal 2,116,215 (1,917,285), Vancouver 1,350,146 (1,365,915), United States Atlantic seaboard ports 682,000 (709,000), Sorel 264,800 (nil), Quebec 258,011 (nil), Total 4,671,172 (3,992,200). Forty-three weeks ending May 26: Vancouver 84,316,800 (64,013,784), United States ports 22,858,000 (27,489,000), Sorel 14,659,884 (5,024,122), Saint John 6,864,873 (2,017,008), Quebec 3,536,759 (120,248), Churchill 2,736,030 (544,769), Halifax 1,665,901 (45,189), Victoria 1,166,721 (nil), Prince Rupert 677,813 (nil), Montreal 54,252,751 (38,469,045), Total 192,725,532 (135,723,165).

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#### Canada Now First with Apples in British Market

Canada in the first four months of 1933 has more than doubled her supply of apples in the British market and has taken first place from the United States. In the same period of 1932 Great Britain imported 1,394,769 cwts. from the United States, 325,563 from Canada and 189,365 from Australia, whereas this year the supply from Canada has been 856,605 cwts., from United States 736,446 and from Australia 262,132.

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#### Silver Production in February

The production of silver in Canada during February was at a slightly higher daily rate than in January. The output totalled 1,307,154 ounces of 46,684 ounces per day as compared with the January production of 1,383,776 ounces or a daily rate of 44,638 ounces. In February, a year ago, 1,600,501 ounces were produced.

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#### Lead Production in February

Canadian lead production declined to 18,626,329 pounds in February, from the preceding month's total of 20,782,296 pounds. In February, 1932, the output was 20,154,613 pounds.

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#### Zinc Production in February

The Canadian output of zinc in February amounted to 12,649,370 pounds; in the preceding month 13,892,630 pounds were produced and in February, 1932, the total was 14,224,278 pounds.

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#### Hog Marketings in 1932 High, Cattle Low

Total hog marketings at yards, plants and direct on export amounted to 3,200,000 head in 1932 as compared with 2,643,000 head in the preceding year, and represented the highest production during the last five years. The market during the year to date has shown improvement with expectations that the British quota system will improve Canadian opportunities in competition with foreign countries. Sales of commercial cattle at the nine public stock yards during 1932 showed a decrease of about 77,000 head from 1931, and constituted the smallest movement in 12 years. The volume of cattle on grain East and West during the past winter was considerably above domestic needs, and to maintain cattle prices in Canada a very substantial number will have to be moved to the overseas market during the spring and early summer. Fortunately the Birkenhead and Glasgow markets have, been on an import basis from the beginning of the present year, and the movement from Canada got off to an early and liberal start, says the Monthly Review of Business Statistics.

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### Substantial Increase in Employment

There was a substantial increase in employment at the beginning of May according to reports from 7,998 firms to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The payrolls of these employers aggregated 714,891 persons, as compared with 699,414 in the preceding month. The increase of nearly 15,500 in the staffs of the co-operating establishments exceeded the gain recorded in any month since September 1931.

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### Increased Use of Electric Energy in Canada

The amount of electric energy used in Canada, including all line losses, actually increased from 15,103,831,000 kilowatt hours in 1931 to 15,347,218,000 kilowatt hours, or by 243,387,000 kilowatt hours or 1.6 per cent. The significance of this improvement is more apparent when comparisons are made of the coal consumption during 1931 and 1932. The bituminous and lignite coal available for consumption in 1931 was 22,237,000 tons and in 1932, 19,973,000 tons, which was a decrease in 1932 of 2,264,000 tons, or 10.2 per cent. Of course, all this coal was not used for power purposes, but it is quite probable that the coal used for heating buildings showed a smaller rate of decrease than the coal used for power.

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### Canned Salmon in the British Market

Canadian canned salmon did a good deal better in the British market in April than in March. In March the British importation was only one cwt.; in April it was 2,032 cwt. as against 2,715 from the United States and 478 from Soviet Russia. The four months' imports of canned salmon were as follows in cwts., the figures in brackets being those of the same period of 1932: Soviet Russia 88,225 (19,492), United States 64,097 (29,445), Canada 21,119 (62,398). The values, however, are significant. Soviet Russia's value was £158,131, United States' £242,287, Canada's £142,214. Canada's canned salmon brought incomparably the highest price.

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