

WEEKLY BULLETIN

Dominion Bureau of Statistics

Department of Trade and Commerce



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The economic index advanced 1.3 p.c. over the preceding week, and 9.9 p.c. over the same week of 1935, resulting, with the exception of the third week of February, in a new high point during the period of observation

The economic index recorded a gain in the week of July 11, reaching with one exception the highest point for any week during the period of observation from the beginning of 1933 to the present time. The index was only fractionally below the high point reached in the later part of February. The gain in carloadings was the main influence in raising the index in the week under review. Four of the six major factors recorded gains, the exception being the index of common stock prices and the number of shares traded on the Canadian exchanges. The increase in wholesale prices, reflecting the sharp advances on the Winnipeg grain exchange, was especially noteworthy resulting in a new high point for the post-depression period. The gain in the index over the preceding week was $1\frac{1}{2}$ p.c., a considerable increase in an index not normally given to wide fluctuations. A further advance was shown in bond prices to a new high point for many years. A moderate gain was recorded in the index of bank clearings, while a slight recession was shown in common stock prices from the preceding week, and trading was at a somewhat lower level. The index in the week of July 11 was 109.1 against 107.7 in the preceding week, a gain of 1.3 p.c.

The advance in the economic index since the first of June has widened the gap over the levels of 1935. The gain in the economic index over the same week of last year was nearly 10 p.c. Each of the six major factors recorded advances in this comparison. The index of carloadings was 8.4 p.c. greater than the same week of last year. A gain over the same weeks of 1935 has been shown by the index of wholesale prices for the last six weeks, the lead in the week under review having been 3.8 p.c. The inverted index of bond yields based on Dominion Government issues has been at an extremely high point for four weeks, a further gain having been shown in the week of July 10. The net result was that the index stood 10.2 p.c. higher than in the same week of last year. The gain in the index of common stock prices over the corresponding week of 1935 was no less than 23.8 p.c.. Gains were also shown in bank clearings and in shares traded. The index in the week under review was 109.1 against 99.3 in the week of July 13, 1935, a gain of 9.9 p.c.

The index of carloadings in the twenty-seventh week was 78.0 against 74.6 in the preceding week. The gain over the same week of last year was 8.4 p.c., increases having been shown in each of the eleven commodity groups except coal. The increase in the railway freight movement over the first twenty-seven weeks of last year was 15,178 cars.

Owing to adverse weather conditions, grain prices advanced sharply on the Winnipeg exchange in the week of July 11. Wheat No. 1 Manitoba Northern averaged 92 cents per bushel against $84\frac{1}{2}$ cents in the preceding week. Marked gains were also shown in the coarse grains. Cattle prices advanced on the Toronto stock yards, while bacon hogs were at a somewhat lower level. Zinc prices showed a recession on the New York metal market, while copper, lead and silver were maintained. The increase in the price of tin in the preceding week was extended in the week under review. The announcement by Bolivia of the surrender of her rights to export 10,228 tons of tin, the redistribution of the quota and the reduction in the Bolivia quota from 90 to 75 p.c. sent prices up sharply. The Canadian index of non-ferrous metals rose from 67.6 to 67.7 when tin rallied for a gain of 3.3 points. Rubber and cotton quotations also advanced appreciably in New York.

Each of the industrial and the utility sub-groups of common stock prices showed recession in the week of July 9 except pulp and paper, food and beverages. The June index of 112 stocks recoded from 119.2 to 118.5.

Weekly Economic Index with the Six Components
1926=100

Week	Car load- ings ¹	Whole- sale Prices	Inverted Index of Bond Yields ²	Bank Clear- ings ³	Prices of Common Stocks	Shares Traded	Economic Index
July 13, 1935	72.0	71.2	138.1	89.3	95.7	68.6	99.3
July 4, 1936	74.6	72.8	151.3	94.5	119.2	136.2	107.7
July 11, 1936	78.0	73.9	152.2	96.7	118.5	100.7	109.1

1. The index of carloadings is projected forward one week to correspond with the practice in computing the economic index. 2. Cost of a fixed net income in perpetuity from

Dominion long-term bonds derived by taking the reciprocal of the Bureau's index of bond yields. 3. Bank clearings were smoothed by taking a three weeks moving average for the purpose of eliminating irregular fluctuations. Totals for Ottawa were eliminated for all weeks shown, owing to incomparability introduced by the operations of the Bank of Canada.

Construction Showed Gain in June

The statistics relating to building activity denoted improvement in June, awards being \$20,800,000. Gains were recorded over the preceding month and the same month of last year. The awards of the six months at \$77,700,000 against \$76,000,000 in 1935 showed only moderate increase but the proportion of private undertakings was considerably larger than in the same period of last year.

Residential building showed a gain of 15.8 p.c. over the same month of 1935. Industrial and engineering construction recorded increases of 85 p.c. and 29 p.c., respectively, while the decline in business construction was 19.5 p.c. The net result was that the grand total was 12.3 p.c. greater than in June 1935.

During a time of depression the existing plant and equipment, generally speaking, is more than sufficient to meet current demands for industrial products. Once the fixed capital is again operated at a high percentage of capacity corresponding to the state of affairs in the preceding period of maximum prosperity, the construction industry immediately acquires additional momentum. A small number of industries are now producing above the level reached in the last period of prosperity culminating in 1929. As that stage is reached by an increasing number of industries, the rebound in building activity will become more pronounced.

Construction Contracts Awarded in June 1936 compared with June 1935

Classification	June 1936	June 1935	Increase + Decrease - Per Cent.
Apartment	\$ 317,800	\$ 706,300	- 55.0
Residences	5,000,600	3,885,200	+ 28.7
Total residential	5,318,400	4,591,500	+ 15.8
Public garages	431,000	347,500	+ 24.0
Hospitals	659,000	29,600	+122.6
Hotels and clubs	223,800	273,000	- 18.0
Office buildings	180,200	273,600	- 34.1
Public buildings	794,100	1,892,400	- 58.0
Schools	881,600	332,600	+165.1
Stores	790,600	426,700	+ 85.3
Warehouses	780,900	2,449,700	- 68.1
Total business	5,134,400	6,381,800	- 19.5
Total industrial	2,114,000	1,144,500	+ 84.7
Bridges	262,600	485,200	- 45.9
Roads and streets	6,268,900	3,485,000	+ 79.9
General engineering	1,584,700	1,977,800	- 19.9
Total engineering	8,236,600	6,403,600	+ 28.6
Grand total	20,803,400	18,521,400	+ 12.3

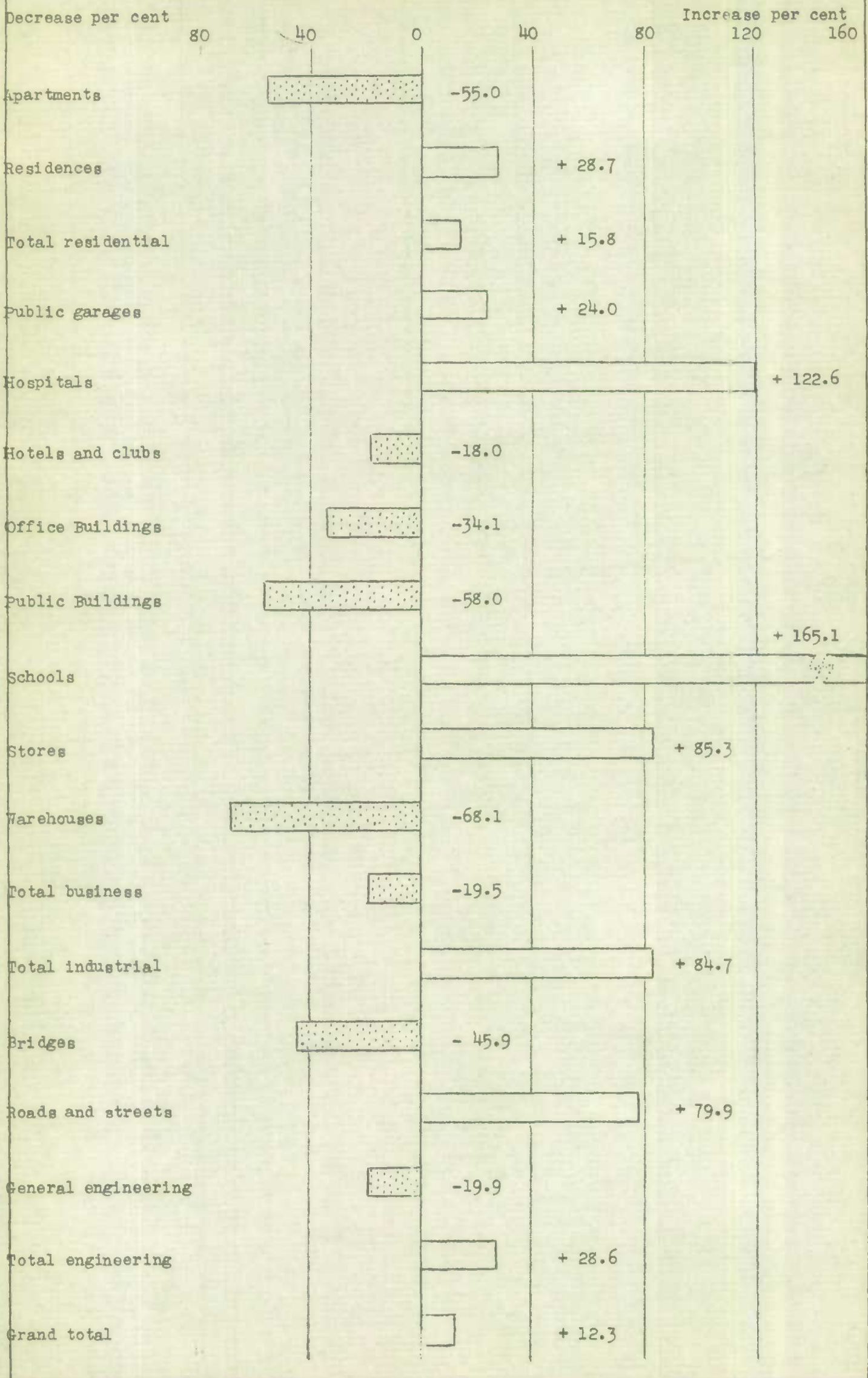
Source: MacLeans Building Reports

Export of Wheat and Wheatflour in June

The export of wheat to the United Kingdom in June amounted to 17,205,689 bushels valued at \$13,175,533 compared with 4,377,033 at \$3,411,095 a year ago. The export to United States was 1,952,506 bushels at \$1,227,545 compared with 210,120 at \$131,244 last June. The total export was 25,763,565 bushels at \$19,682,585 as against 6,494,622 bushels at \$5,148,692 in June last year.

The export of wheat flour to the United Kingdom was 191,201 barrels at \$738,169 compared with 230,546 barrels at \$867,030 last year. The total export of wheatflour was 430,171 barrels at \$1,663,424 as against 429,561 barrels at \$1,664,482 a year ago.

Construction Contracts Awarded in June, 1936 Compared with June, 1935.



The Canada Year Book 1936

The publication of the 1936 edition of the Canada Year Book is announced by the General Statistics Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The Canada Year Book is the official statistical annual of the country and contains a thoroughly up-to-date account of the natural resources of the Dominion and their development, the history of the country, its institutions, its demography, the different branches of production, trade, transportation, finance, education, etc. - in brief, a comprehensive study within the limits of a single volume of the social and economic condition of the Dominion. This new edition has been thoroughly revised throughout and includes in all its chapters the latest information available up to the date of going to press. The 1936 Canada Year Book extends to over 1,150 pages, dealing with every phase of the national life and more especially with those susceptible of statistical measurement. It is illustrated by many maps and diagrams and the latest available data are everywhere included.

The death of His Majesty King George V on Jan. 20, 1936, received with deep sorrow throughout the Empire and with world-wide regret, and the succession of King Edward VIII to the Throne, have been appropriately marked by the reproduction, as frontispiece, of the official Proclamation of the Government of Canada made on Jan. 21, 1936, accompanied by the latest official photographs, obtained through the courtesy of the respective Court photographers.

Owing to the urgent need for economy in the distribution of Government publications, it has become necessary to make a charge to all individuals receiving the Canada Year Book. Persons requiring the Year Book may obtain it from the King's Printer, Ottawa, as long as the supply lasts, at the price of \$1.50, which covers merely the cost of paper, printing and binding. By a special concession, ministers of religion, bona-fide students and school teachers may obtain paper-bound copies at the nominal price of 50 cents each.

Canadian Fisheries Production

The value of output of the Canadian fisheries in 1935 was \$34,427,854, compared with \$34,022,323 in the preceding year, representing the value of the fish as marketed whether sold for consumption fresh, or canned, cured or otherwise prepared. The 1935 value is the highest recorded during the five-year period 1931 to 1935. The total value of the fisheries output in 1935 is divided between sea and inland as follows: sea fisheries \$29,175,400; inland fisheries \$5,252,454. The former shows a decrease compared with the preceding year, and the latter an increase.

Of chief importance is the salmon with a marketed value in 1935 of \$12,540,307, or 36 per cent of the value of output of the whole of the fisheries in that year. To the total value of the salmon output, British Columbia contributed 96 per cent. The chief item in the salmon output is the canned product, which had a total value of \$9,663,305.

The lobster fishery is second to the salmon in importance with a total production value of \$4,378,742, and the cod fishery is third with a value of \$2,758,140. The lobster production shows an increase over 1934 of \$108,978, while the cod value shows a decrease of \$569,367. All of the lobsters and 98 per cent of the cod come from the Atlantic coast. Other important commercial fishes are herring, whitefish, sardines, halibut and haddock.

Among the provinces, British Columbia occupies first place, owing to the large output of salmon in that province, while Nova Scotia is second and New Brunswick third. In Nova Scotia, the chief fishery is the lobster, and in New Brunswick, the sardine.

The total quantity of fish of all kinds, including shell fish, caught and landed during the year was 9,532,017 cwt., and the value to the fishermen at the point of landing \$20,755,787, compared with a total catch in 1934 of 9,330,869 cwt., and a value to the fishermen of \$19,714,935.

Storage Batteries

The production of storage batteries and parts in Canada was valued at \$3,107,803 in 1935 compared with \$2,991,176 in 1934. The 1935 total included 560,503 batteries for automobile and internal combustion engine starting and ignition, 14,664 cells for farm lighting plants, 3,853 cells for railway service, 1,599 batteries for telephone switchboards, 2,995 batteries for motorcycle starting, \$189,975 worth of batteries for all

other purposes and \$345,593 of parts and other battery supplies.

Electric Transformers

Factory sales of electric transformers amounted to a value of \$1,992,281 as against \$2,190,968 in 1934. Imports during the year were \$91,687 as against \$76,648 in the previous year.

Compressed Gases

Twenty eight factories included in the compressed gases industry in 1935 had a value of production of \$3,077,765 compared with \$2,803,840 in 1934 and \$2,490,215 in 1933. The average number of employees in these establishments was 510 with salaries and wages of \$741,631. The main products were oxygen, acetylene, carbon dioxide and hydrogen and each of these were made in greater quantities than in 1934. Acetylene output was 39,922,683 cu. ft.; oxygen 136,059,706, carbon dioxide in cylinders 4,849,687 and hydrogen 40,134,386 cu. ft.

Wholesale Sales

Preliminary compilations of returns received from a large number of wholesale firms reveal substantial gains in wholesale trade in 1935 as compared with the preceding year. Gains ranged from 2.7 per cent for coal and coke to 20.9 for machinery, equipment and supplies. The different lines of trade reported were as follows, with the 1934 figures in brackets: Amusement, photographic and sporting goods \$1,794,300 (\$1,687,500); Automotive \$13,326,600 (\$12,290,300); Chemicals and paints \$8,343,500 (\$7,612,100); Drugs and drug sundries \$20,798,200 (\$19,571,900); Coal and coke \$38,319,100 (\$37,297,000); Dry goods and apparel \$55,088,000 (\$53,394,600); Electrical \$7,671,300 (\$6,711,200); Farm supplies \$8,052,400 (\$7,732,000); Foods \$365,120,600 (\$347,446,400); Furniture and house furnishings \$6,552,000 (\$6,036,300); General merchandise \$8,219,000 (\$7,656,800); Hardware \$45,274,200 (\$42,348,700); Jewellery and optical goods \$7,018,100 (\$6,216,700); Leather and leather goods \$5,691,200 (\$5,311,200); Lumber and building materials \$16,750,500 (\$15,140,200); Machinery equipment and supplies \$23,516,800 (\$19,449,900); Metals and metal work \$8,127,000 (\$7,073,100); Paper and paper products \$15,641,200 (\$14,967,700); Plumbing and heating equipment and supplies \$6,326,700 (\$5,650,400); Tobacco and confectionery \$27,228,600 (\$25,225,900).

Electric Power in Manufacturing and Mining

The ratio of electric motor capacity to total power employed in manufacturing industries has increased steadily from 1923 with only two small recessions and for 1934 was 78.5 per cent. Many industries use electric drive exclusively and scores of others have ratios above 90 per cent. This rise from 61.3 per cent in 1923 to 78.5 was affected largely by the pulp and paper mills.

The mining industries in Canada are nearly as completely electrified as the manufacturing industries with the exception of the fuel group and the increase in the ratio of electric motors to total power equipment during these eleven years has been even greater, rising from 57.3 per cent in 1923 to 75.1 in 1934.

Production of Creamery Butter

Production of creamery butter in Canada during June amounted to 38,938,875 lb. compared with 36,746,605 in the same month last year, an increase of six per cent. The Maritime Provinces showed a remarkable increase, rising from 1,287,713 lb. to 1,884,475. Saskatchewan, Alberta, Quebec and Ontario also showed increases, while Manitoba's production was practically on a par with last year at 3,650,000. British Columbia showed a decrease of 13 per cent, falling from 753,639 in June 1935 to 654,143 lb., continuing the lowered production which has been reported during the last few months.

Food in Store

Creamery butter in cold storage on July 1 amounted to 27,579,212 lb. compared with 22,939,380 on the same date last year, and 10,337,856 on June 1, 1936. Stocks of meat and fish in storage on July 1 follow, with figures for the same date last year in brackets: Pork 36,789,014 (32,175,831) lb., Lard 3,289,784 (3,405,688) lb., Beef 12,784,903 (9,207,071), Veal 3,164,239 (1,845,242), Mutton and lamb 670,523 (1,039,109), Poultry 4,621,808 (3,595,638), Fish 23,888,008 (18,251,737).

Cheese Production

The production of cheese by the provinces of Quebec, Alberta, British Columbia and Ontario, the four great cheese producing areas of Canada, amounted to 20,578,175 lb. in June, an increase of 25 p.c. over the same month last year. The cumulative total for the period ending June amounted to 34,243,017 lb., an increase of 28.5 per cent.

Crop Conditions in the Argentine

The correspondent of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics at Buenos Aires reports under date of July 1 that the weather during June was characterized by continuous rains, heavy atmospheric humidity and a lack of sunshine. "Crop conditions," he says, "are almost the reverse of those of a year ago when because of the drought then prevailing seeding operations were held up by the hardness of the ground making ploughing impossible. Now the frequent and generous rains have made the soil too wet for cultivation in many districts, as for instance in Entre Rios where there is practically no seeding of wheat yet accomplished. On the other hand in zones where the land is light and sandy, seeding is well advanced, reaching 70 and 80 per cent of the total acreage intended for wheat. In areas where maize is included in the crop rotation the impossibility of completing the picking of the corn in order to clear and plough the land for a wheat crop may result in less wheat being sown than had been intended in those districts, which is unfortunate as it will mean that there will be a lower proportion of relatively clean land under wheat in a season which gives every promise of producing a heavy growth of weeds in the grain. Generally speaking, the season is later than usual, and in some districts it is fully a month behind normal."

Electric Motors and Generators

Factory sales of electric motors by Canadian producers in 1935 numbered 162,341 units valued at \$2,881,166 in 1935 compared with 139,956 units at \$2,466,161 in 1934. The 1935 total included 148,346 motors which were rated at one-third horse-power and under. Imports in 1935 were valued at \$1,534,528 compared with \$1,375,941 in 1934.

Crop Conditions in the Prairie Provinces

Blistering heat with temperatures breaking all-time high records, together with quite inadequate precipitation, has taken disastrous toll of farm crops throughout the Prairies Provinces and most of Ontario. Crop prospects have suffered a marked reduction during the past two weeks and unless immediate relief comes in the form of abundant rainfall, large areas will be completely wiped out. Should the rains come in time, decided improvement would result, particularly in the feed situation.

Serious feed shortages are now assured in parts of the Prairie Provinces and yields of spring grains will be much below normal. In large areas in the southern and south-western parts of Saskatchewan, there is little hope of a commercial crop. Temperatures over the whole of central Canada have been much above normal and rainfall during the past two weeks has been scattered and ineffective in all but a few sections.

In Quebec, crops are not suffering unduly although pastures are beginning to fail. The Maritime Provinces have experienced cool showery weather but on the whole, crops have developed normally. Pastures have continued good and dairy production is well above that of last year. British Columbia has enjoyed almost ideal weather and prospects for all crops are good. Small fruits and vegetables are now being marketed freely and some early apples are making their appearance.

Fruit in Cold Storage

Apples held in cold storage on July 1 amounted to 520 barrels and 27,750 boxes and hampers compared with 329 barrels and 7,003 boxes and hampers with 25 crates and baskets a year ago. They were held mainly in Quebec and Ontario. Stocks of fresh and frozen strawberries were smaller than a year ago, raspberries much smaller and cherries much larger.

Export of Coarse Grains in June

The export of oats in June amounted to 1,248,164 bushels at \$418,055 compared with 1,475,100 at \$591,455 in June last year. The bulk of the export went to the United Kingdom. The barley export was 1,388,975 bushels at \$652,611 as against 970,250 at \$521,483 last year. 1,305,444 bushels went to the United Kingdom, with a small amount to the United States. The export of rye totalled 622,587 bushels at \$284,964 compared with 252,589 at \$114,835 a year ago.

Wheat Stocks and Movement

Marketings of wheat in the Prairie Provinces during the week ending July 3 amounted to 1,751,642 bushels compared with 1,654,909 in the previous week and 2,721,733 a year ago. During the 48 weeks of the crop year the marketings amounted to 213,166,052 bushels as against 218,713,610 in the same period last year.

Overseas export clearances of Canadian wheat during the week of July 10 amounted to 3,236,333 bushels while imports into the United States for consumption and milling in bond were 1,726,000 bushels. The total was 4,962,333 bushels compared with 4,022,222 in the previous week and 1,370,239 a year ago. Clearances during the crop year to date amounted to 158,040,536 bushels compared with 112,564,266 in the same period of 1935. Imports into the United States in these same periods were 46,816,554 bushels compared with 44,828,818.

Canadian wheat in store on July 10 amounted to 131,679,170 bushels compared with 134,932,916 the week before and 193,579,807 a year ago. Canadian wheat in the United States amounted to 16,715,511 bushels as against 15,287,480 the week before and 9,135,030 on the same date last year. Wheat in transit on the Great Lakes aggregated 1,592,569 bushels compared with 875,296 bushels the week before and 1,468,036 a year ago.

Reports Issued During the Week

- ✓ 1. Exports of Canadian Grains and Flour, June.
- ✓ 2. Weekly Index Numbers of Wholesale Prices.
- ✓ 3. Summary of the Trade of Canada, May.
4. A Fact a Day about Canada, June.
5. Argentine Crop Report.
6. Electric Motors and Generators, 1935.
7. Index Numbers of 23 Mining Stocks.
8. Advance Report on the Fisheries of Canada, 1935.
9. Index Numbers of Security Prices.
10. Use of Electric Power in Manufacturing and Mining Industries, 1934.
- ✓ 11. Car Loadings on Canadian Railways.
13. Advance Report on Wholesale Sales, 1935.
14. Compressed Gases Industry, 1935.
15. Storage Batteries, 1935.
16. Electric Transformers, 1935.
17. Food in Cold Storage July 1.
18. Creamery Butter Production.
- ✓ 19. Telegraphic Crop Report, Canada.



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