

Dominion Bureau of Statistics

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Improvement in Canada's Mining Industry

Improvement in Canada's mining industry is indicated by the report of mineral production covering the first six months of 1933. Prices of many of the metals have risen from the 1932 all time low and production of several commodities during May and June has shown a marked improvement over the earlier months of the year and also over the corresponding months of a year ago.

The rise in the price of gold is perhaps the most noteworthy feature. During the first three months of the year the price of gold averaged \$23.80 per fine ounce in Canadian funds. With the abandonment of the gold standard by the United States on April 19th, Canadian gold was shipped to London, the average price for May being \$27.63 and for June, \$28.19. This enhanced price has given Canadian gold mining companies an opportunity to produce gold from sections of their mines which were heretofore found unprofitable to work and as a result the actual quantity of gold produced during the period is less than for the first six months of 1932 but the return to the operator is greater. Prospecting and development of gold properties has been stimulated greatly for the same reason.

Silver producers have reason to hope for a higher and steadier price for their product if the agreements, entered into at the Monetary and Economic Conference, held in London, July, 1933, between India, China and Spain as holders of large stocks or users of silver, and of Australia, Canada, the United States, Mexico and Peru as principal producers of silver, are ratified.

Announcement of an increase in wages by two large base metal mining companies in British Columbia is significant of improved conditions in the lead, zinc and copper production field and the fact that the nickel industry has shown considerable improvement during recent months points also to a healthier situation.

The total value of mineral production of Canada during the first six months of 1933 amounted to \$83,258,871, a decrease of 12.5 per cent from the corresponding period of 1932. Metals as a group reached a total of \$52,056,493 as against \$54,092,915 for the same period last year, a decrease of only 4 per cent; fuels, which include coal, petroleum, natural gas and peat, totalled \$21,814,935, a decrease of 14 per cent; other non-metals, the principal items being asbestos, gypsum, salt, quartz, magnesitic dolomite, sulphur, and sodium sulphate totalled \$3,409,601, a decrease of 11.4 per cent.

Fewer Bananas but More Pineapples

Canadians have not been consuming so many bananas during the past year as they have been hitherto. The imports have declined. The same is true of grape-fruit, lemons and oranges, as well as imported grapes, pears and strawberries. But Canadians are consuming more canned pineapple, more cocoanuts and more peanuts. Possibly the assumption is correct that Canadians have been learning to appreciate their own domestic fruits. Certainly the people of other countries favour the Canadian products for the export of canned fruit has doubled in the past year, while the export of apples and other fresh fruits has increased considerably.

About Window Glass

For many years most of the common window glass used in Canada has come from Belgium. Up till 1932 the supply from that country was twenty million square feet out of a total of twenty-three million. This year, however, has brought a great change. During the first four months of the present fiscal year the importation from Belgium has dropped from ten million square feet to 3,416,000, whilst the supply from the United Kingdom has increased from 220,000 to 2,043,000. Quantities from Czechoslovakia and United States have been decreasing, but those from France and Germany have been increasing, although far behind the British and Belgian supplies in magnitude.

Dominion Bureau of Statistics - No. 2, Grain Statistics in Canada.

NOTE. - This is the second of a series of articles dealing with the duties and responsibilities of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. These will appear from time to time, probably each Friday.

The organization of agricultural statistics in Canada is essentially the result of evolution and co-operation. Less than a generation ago, the basic statistics of acreage and production were not only inaccurate but conflicting. Provincial and Dominion authorities issued independent estimates and the public was almost invariably confused. A series of conferences and commissions, the latest one as recently as 1924, has largely corrected this situation and the Statistics Act of 1918, with subsequent Amendments and related Orders-in-Council now provides the groundwork for effective development. This Act provides for national integration of agricultural statistics through the Dominion Bureau of Statistics and yet quite properly leaves the local organization in the hands of the provincial authorities, where supervision can be more intimate. Development on this basis has been rapid. Annual returns on acreage and live-stock are now compiled in two provincial capitals, and monthly reports on the crops are prepared in four.

The basis of the acreage estimates is the June Survey conducted mostly through the rural schools, but also by direct mailing of cards to farmers in Alberta and British Columbia. The object is to obtain a representative sample of cards from 20 to 30 per cent of the farmers, from which estimates for the entire 100 per cent can be made. While there are better methods than this from the standpoint of accuracy, these would involve a much greater cost and, unless the staff was extremely large, a much longer period of compilation. During the present period when every possible economy is a necessary function of government, it is thought that the best results evolve from an improvement of the existing system.

The "Intentions" report for spring grains has now been compiled for three years at the same date. The acreage shown in this report for 1933 should not be expected to compare with those disclosed later by the June Survey. The intended acreages are only indicative of farmers' plans about the first of May and the actually sown acreages may be changed by many later considerations such as soil and weather conditions and price movements. In the two years, for which intended acreages may be compared with those finally established, wheat and oats "Intentions" have been low and barley, rye and flax, particularly the latter, have been high. An effort has been made to correct the 1933 "Intentions" for the probable bias.

Current reports on growing conditions are collected from a large list of correspondents distributed throughout the agricultural areas. These number about 15,000 and include technical agriculturists, farmers, railway and elevator agents, and rural bank managers and postmasters. In practice it is found that the separately compiled results of each class of correspondent have rather constant and peculiar characteristics or biases; thus the need of drawing information from more than one class in an effort to secure reliability. These reporters are worthy of very special tribute because of their painstaking devotion to public service without remuneration. Attention to the numerous schedules distributed from the Bureau requires a lot of time and no little ability. The crop-reporting season begins at the end of April with reports on winter-killing, the condition of fall wheat, fall rye, hay and clover meadows and on the intended acreages of the principal crops. This service continues monthly throughout the year, covering the various phenomena of growth in season.

The method adopted for expressing numerically the condition of field crops is an adaptation of the method which is recommended by the International Institute of Agriculture to all adhering countries. This method consists in the use of a percentage scale in which the number 100 represents the provincial average yield per acre over a long series of years, and correspondents are asked to judge whether the appearance of the crops at a given date indicates the promise of a yield per acre equal to, greater or less than this average. For example, if the average yield per acre of wheat in the province of the correspondent is, say, 20 bushels, and the appearance of the crop on June 30 is above the average and warrants the expectation of a crop of 21 bushels to the acre, 20 bushels being represented by the number 100, 21 bushels will be represented by 105. Similarly, if the crop is below average and the yield is expected to be only 19 bushels, the percentage reported will be 95. In practice, the calculations of the correspondent will be shorter than this. Having formed a clear idea of the average yield in his locality, he will be able from the appearance of the crop to judge within reasonable limits the percentage above or below the average and will report accordingly. To enable correspondents to judge the average yield of each crop in their respective districts, the average yields per acre of the principal field crops for each province, calculated from the data furnished by crop

correspondents are furnished to them annually.

Three estimates of the production of cereal crops are made -- the first about September 10, the second about November 10, and the third about January 21. When the complete figures of marketing and disposition are available after the crop year closes on July 31 the estimates can be checked and adjusted. Because of the practically complete check on the disposition of farmers' supplies now provided, the final estimates may be placed within 1 per cent of actual production.

An important part of the crop-reporting service is provided by the telegraphic reports. These are issued six times for the whole of Canada and fifteen times for the Prairie Provinces -- the former appearing every two weeks and the latter every week during the growing season. The basic reports are submitted by about eighty-two correspondents strategically distributed across Canada and the report is issued from Ottawa on the same day that the wires are received. Officers of the Dominion and Provincial Departments of Agriculture form the backbone of this service, with specially selected private reporters in Manitoba and Alberta. Since 1930, every possible effort has been made to cover crop development and particular attention has been paid to entomological, pathological and meteorological conditions. The Dominion Meteorological Service co-operates in this latter regard. Western hail insurance companies give reliable information on hail damage.

Concurrent with these statistics of crop production, comprehensive data are collected on the marketing and disposition of grains. For the Western Inspection Division, this information is collected by the Board of Grain Commissioners while in the Eastern Inspection Division, it is compiled jointly by the Board and the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Through this service, the grain is followed through the marketing and transporting process from the country elevator or loading platform to its final utilization. Records are collected and published weekly showing amounts in store, receipts and shipments at the various classes of elevators. Weekly statements of the visible supply are issued and these probably comprise the most complete, detailed and prompt enumeration of grain supplies issued by any country in the world. At March 31 and July 31 of each year, comprehensive figures on stocks of the five principal grains are collected and published.

To trace the utilization of wheat as flour and feed, monthly returns from the flour and grist mills of Canada are compiled in the Bureau. The General Manufactures Branch of the Bureau also prepares an annual report on flour-milling operations.

Trade of Barbados in 1932

Canada was the chief market of Barbados in 1932. The exports to Canada were valued at £619,359 or 72.9 p.c. of the whole; to United States £113,680 or 13.4 p.c.; to the United Kingdom £43,183 or 5.1 p.c. The imports from Canada were £262,942 or 17.7 p.c.; from United States £279,891 or 18.8 p.c.; from United Kingdom £516,603 or 34.7 p.c. Barbados is 21 miles in length and 14 in width. It is one of the most densely populated areas in the world, with a total population of 156,312 or 940 to the square mile. It is well and favourably known as a tourist resort.

How International Trade has Changed since 1926

The following were the ten leading exporting countries of the world in 1932, the figures in brackets being the exports of 1926, the year commonly taken as a base: United States \$1,790,900,000 (\$4,711,500,000), Germany \$1,547,800,000 (\$2,336,700,000), United Kingdom \$1,452,900,000 (\$3,172,500,000), France \$876,300,000 (\$1,929,500,000), Canada \$493,800,000 (\$1,268,600,000), Belgium \$468,300,000 (\$655,800,000), Japan \$440,600,000 (\$930,700,000), British India \$410,200,000 (\$1,188,500,000), Italy \$396,400,000 (\$732,600,000), Netherlands \$387,300,000 (\$701,100,000).

The following were the ten leading importing countries in 1932, the 1926 figures being in brackets: United Kingdom \$2,595,200,000 (\$5,437,500,000), United States \$1,462,100,000 (\$4,333,900,000), France \$1,327,300,000 (\$1,928,800,000), Germany \$1,258,600,000 (\$2,368,300,000), Netherlands \$594,700,000 (\$978,700,000), Belgium \$513,800,000 (\$774,200,000), Italy \$480,600,000 (\$1,015,200,000), Japan \$447,500,000 (\$1,085,700,000), Canada \$444,600,000 (\$993,000,000), British India \$402,200,000 (\$864,600,000).

The following were the ten leading countries in aggregate trade, their 1926 figures being given in brackets: United Kingdom \$4,048,100,000 (\$8,786,400,000),

United States \$3,253,000,000 (\$9,045,400,000), Germany \$2,806,400,000 (\$4,705,000,000), France \$2,203,600,000 (\$3,858,300,000), Belgium \$982,100,000 (\$1,430,000,000), Netherlands \$982,000,000 (\$1,679,800,000), Canada \$938,400,000 (\$2,261,600,000), Japan \$888,100,000 (\$2,016,400,000), Italy \$877,000,000 (\$1,747,800,000), British India \$812,400,000 (\$2,053,100,000).

Manufacture of Excelsior

The value of the excelsior or wood wool manufactured in Canada in 1932 was \$143,011 compared with \$186,846 in 1931. There were ten establishments, four being in Ontario, two each in Quebec and Manitoba and one each in Alberta and British Columbia. Excelsior is used in packing fragile commodities of all kinds, in upholstering and in the manufacture of cheap mattresses. Poplar and basswood form the chief raw material. The use of poplar in this industry is important from a forestry standpoint as it provides a market for what is, in many places in Canada, a tree weed. As the supply of poplar is more than sufficient to provide for its present uses, the development of this industry depends entirely on market conditions.

Wholesale Prices in August

The Dominion Bureau of Statistics index number of wholesale prices, on the base 1926=100, fell from 70.5 in July to 69.4 in August. 87 quotations were higher, 90 were lower, while 325 remained unchanged.

Vegetable products declined from 69.8 to 65.7 due principally to price reductions for wheat, oats, rye, barley, flour, bran and shorts. Animals and their products rose from 59.6 to 59.8, gains for hogs, calves, hides, milk, eggs and lard influencing the index more than losses for steers, lambs, fresh and cured meats and butter. Fibres, textiles and textile products advanced from 70.6 to 71.1, higher quotations for raw wool and cotton fabrics more than offsetting declines for raw cotton, silk and hessian. Wood, wood products and paper moved up from 62.9 to 63.4, better prices for pine and hemlock lumber outweighing price reductions for fir flooring.

Iron and its products changed from 84.2 to 84.5, due principally to gains for steel sheets, steel tank plates and automobile body plates. Non-ferrous metals and their products dropped from 69.9 to 68.0, chiefly on account of easier quotations for electrolytic copper, lead, silver, tin and zinc. Non-metallic minerals and their products were 83.8 in August, as against 83.6 in July, with better prices obtaining for gasoline, kerosene and sulphur. Chemicals and allied products changed fractionally from 81.4 to 81.9. Zinc oxide, lithopone and quebracho extract moved upward, while alum and copper sulphate declined.

August Export of Wheat

The August export of wheat was 8,652,970 bushels valued at \$6,656,511 compared with 18,289,832 at \$10,642,471 a year ago and 11,909,108 at \$6,620,677 two years ago. The average export price last month was 76.9¢ per bushel, compared with 58.2¢ a year ago, and 55.6¢ two years ago. During the first five months of the present fiscal year the export was 67,950,236 bushels valued at \$45,360,222, compared with 76,823,785 at \$45,671,061 last year and 78,955,612 at \$47,843,362 two years ago. The average export price in the past five months was 66.8¢ per bushel compared with 59.4¢ a year ago and 60.6¢ two years ago.

Decrease in Importations of Alcoholic Beverages

The importations of alcoholic beverages has been much reduced of late, the reduction in the past twelve months being in value over six million dollars. The value for the twelve months ending July was \$13,789,000 compared with \$19,918,000 in the previous twelve months. The importation of brandy has dropped from 210,000 proof gallons to 77,000, gin from 179,000 to 101,000, whiskey from 537,000 to 424,000. The importation of wines has also decreased considerably.

Canadian Cattle to Scotland

During the first six months of this year 4,764 head of Canadian cattle, in eleven shipments, arrived at Merklands Wharf, Glasgow, reports the Canadian Trade

Commissioner there, and were sold to farmers and butchers from all parts of Scotland. The main prospects for this trade depend, more than ever, on the shippers selecting well-bred good types of light and medium weight. Angus and Shorthorn, or their crosses, are preferred for Glasgow. Cattle of Hereford breeding find less favour.

Scottish Imports of Bacon and Hams.

Imports of Canadian bacon by Scotland in the first six months of 1933 totalled 3,270 cwt. compared with 91 cwt. in the same period last year. The import of hams was 5,946 cwt. compared with 732.

Potato Flour from the Netherlands

Shipments of potato flour, the principal potato by-product of the Netherlands, to Canada in 1932 amounted to 258 metric tons.

Electric Refrigerators Imported

Electric refrigerators imported in July numbered 577 of the value of \$27,822 compared with 88 at \$11,925 a year ago, all from the United States, but electric heating apparatus imported was less.

Automobile Imports in July

Imports of vehicles of iron in July totalled in value \$1,072,585 compared with \$891,807 in July last year. Parts from the United States accounted for \$921,711. There were 31 autos from the United Kingdom and 149 from the United States.

Leather Footwear Production in July a Record

Continued advance is shown by the leather footwear industry in quantity of output, production for the month of July reaching a total of 1,974,867 pairs, an increase over the preceding month of 9,220 pairs, and an increase over July, 1932, of 595,383 pairs. The July production is the largest recorded by any month of the period for which monthly statistics are available, viz., January 1926 to the present. The total output for the seven months ended July 31 was 10,798,759 pairs, or an average per month of 1,542,680 pairs, compared with a total of 10,509,069 pairs and a monthly average of 1,501,295 pairs for the corresponding period of 1932.

A further decline is recorded in the importation of footwear (not including rubber goods) in July, as compared with July, 1932. The total quantity, comprising footwear with leather uppers, canvas uppers and felt uppers was 14,126 pairs, compared with 22,487 pairs in July, 1932. The total value of footwear (not including rubber goods) imported was \$26,753, a decrease from July, 1932, of \$14,066 or 34 per cent. The exports totalled 1,753 pairs valued at \$4,276, compared with 2,065 pairs valued at \$4,179 in July, 1932.

Tin Imports in July

The imports of tin in blocks, pigs, etc. in July totalled 1,818 cwt. valued at \$91,316, of which 1,265 at \$63,313 came from the United States and 553 at \$28,003 from England.

Alumina Imports

The import of alumina, including bauxite, in July was 48,092 cwt. valued at \$42,383, all from the United States. The quantity in June was 119,762 cwt. at \$191,757 and in July last year 19,833 at \$43,825.

August Export of Wheatflour

The August export of wheatflour was 480,288 barrels valued at \$1,948,441, compared with 330,382 at \$1,094,460 a year ago and 522,178 at \$1,795,477 two years ago. The average export price last month was \$4.06 per barrel compared with \$3.31 a year ago and \$3.44 two years ago. During the first five months of the present fiscal year the

export of wheatflour was 2,317,027 barrels valued at \$8,010,467 compared with 2,064,879 at \$7,043,336 a year ago and 2,286,821 valued at \$8,070,058 two years ago. The average price over the last five months was \$3.46 per barrel compared with \$3.41 a year ago and \$3.53 two years ago.

Retail Sales in July

Index numbers of retail sales fell from 86.1 in June to 73.7 in July. Boots and shoes decreased from 104.5 to 74.6; clothing from 103.7 to 68.4; drugs from 75.0 to 72.3; dyers and cleaners from 103.7 to 75.9 and furniture from 46.4 to 33.5. General and departmental fell from 96.4 to 80.7; groceries and meats from 76 to 73.3; hardware from 99.2 to 81, and music and radio from 15.9 to 14.4. Candy sales increased from 55.3 to 60.1 and restaurants from 57.2 to 58.4.

July Imports of Tea and Coffee

The July imports of tea, amounting to 1,903,202 pounds, were considerably below the average although higher than in July, 1932. The quantity imported in the last twelve months was 39,007,369 pounds valued at \$4,741,880 compared with 39,255,245 at \$6,180,541 in the previous twelve months, a considerable drop in the value. The quantity of black tea was 1,735,328 pounds and of green tea 167,834. Black tea from India totalled 810,716 pounds, from Ceylon 916,071, from China 7,552, from Japan 956 and from other countries 15. Green tea from Japan totalled 144,794 pounds, from Ceylon 18,802 and from China 4,288.

Jamaica was the chief source of supply of green coffee in July, the quantity being 833,930 pounds out of a total of 2,193,000. Other large quantities came from the following: Brazil 599,330, Colombia 260,882, British East Africa 219,824, United Kingdom 104,825, British Guiana 39,810, Trinidad 29,400, Venezuela 28,434, Mexico 24,861, Abyssinia 22,071.

July Imports of Crude Petroleum Higher

Imports of crude petroleum in July totalled 118,271,494 gallons, compared with 121,120,617 in June and 104,209,139 in July, 1932. The imports came chiefly from the following countries: United States 77,678,436, Colombia 16,026,329, Peru 14,399,335, Dutch West Indies 6,129,521, Venezuela 3,714,406. In addition there were 5,616,838 gallons of crude petroleum not in its natural state from Trinidad.

Casinghead gasoline imported in July totalled 1,619,847 gallons valued at \$80,749, compared with 3,876,771 at \$151,684 in June and 1,444,396 at \$67,467 in July, 1932.

Export of Rubber Up

The export of rubber goods in July was valued at \$709,139 compared with \$538,852 in June and \$554,744 in July, 1932. The largest item was pneumatic tire casings which numbered 40,632 at \$279,750 going chiefly to British South Africa, Brazil, Spain, Colombia, New Zealand, British East Africa and China. There were 221,000 pairs of canvas shoes with rubber soles, more than half going to Great Britain, and 177,000 pairs of rubber boots and shoes, most of which also went to the United Kingdom.

The imports of rubber totalled in value \$376,539 compared with \$337,275 in June and \$287,880 in July, 1932. Raw rubber imports comprised \$196,325 from the United States and \$3,456 from the Dutch East Indies. Rubber boots and shoes came mainly from the Straits Settlements, United States and Great Britain, golf balls from Great Britain, pneumatic tire casings from the United States, bicycle tires from Great Britain and Belgium.

The Farm Implement Trade

The export of farm implements and machinery in July was valued at \$170,199 compared with \$142,507 in July last year. The value of the consignments sent to British South Africa was \$56,333 and to New Zealand \$38,897.

The imports totalled in value \$262,407 compared with \$203,089 in June and \$176,742 in July, 1932. The value of those from the United States was \$248,165 and from the United Kingdom \$5,062. Traction engines at \$68,482 was the chief item.

Bi-Carbonate and Sal Ammoniac Imports

The trend of imports of sal ammoniac this year is distinctly towards trading with the United Kingdom. During the first four months of the present fiscal year 314,724 pounds came from Great Britain and only 4,486 from the United States, whereas in the same period of 1932 the quantity from Great Britain was 57,117 pounds and from the United States 127,082. The quantity of sal ammoniac screenings from Great Britain was 61,974 pounds and from the United States 13,989, but in 1932 Canada got only 5,524 from Great Britain and 10,590 from the United States. Bi-carbonate of soda from Great Britain totalled 387,281 pounds and from the United States 3,208,531, while the year before 45,120 came from Great Britain and 3,105,288 from the United States.

Wheat in Store and Export Clearances

The visible supply of Canadian wheat on September 1, was 198,840,021 bushels compared with a revised figure of 196,593,722 for the previous week and 116,378,971 a year ago. Canadian wheat in store in the United States totalled 4,784,542 bushels, compared with 5,560,727 on the same date last year. In transit wheat on the Great Lakes amounted to 4,270,000 bushels, compared with 5,311,729 on September 2 a year ago.

Export clearances totalled 3,987,637 bushels, compared with 3,186,242 in the previous week and 4,197,426 in the corresponding week of 1932. Clearances by ports were as follows, the figures in brackets being those of last year: Montreal 1,819,943 (2,174,438), Vancouver and New Westminster 613,183 (969,503), Churchill 943,512 (228,000), Sorel 204,999 (261,790), United States Atlantic Seaboard Ports 406,000 (441,000), Victoria nil (62,695), Total 3,987,637 (4,197,426). Five weeks ending September 1: Montreal 8,079,150 (8,517,913), Vancouver and New Westminster 2,006,442 (4,017,147), Churchill 2,178,173 (823,713), United States Ports 1,375,000 (1,972,000), Sorel 1,335,369 (1,199,803), Quebec 304,500 (79,970), Victoria nil (62,695), Total 15,278,634 (16,673,241).

Increase in Car Loadings

Car loadings for the week ending September 2 amounted to 45,518 cars, which was an increase over last year of 3,997 and an increase over the previous week of 3,631. The index number rose from 68.32 to 70.15. The improvement was all in the Eastern Division. Merchandise and miscellaneous freight made increases of 345 and 721 cars respectively. Coal also increased by 1,214. Although grain was heavier than in past years and also slightly heavier than for the previous week, the increase of 1,017 cars in the Western Division was less than normal for the season.

World Shipments of Wheat

World shipments of wheat for the week ending September 4 amounted to 9,336,000 bushels compared with 11,522,000 bushels for the week previous and 10,960,000 bushels for the corresponding week last year. The past week was featured by a sharp contraction in shipments from the Argentine and Australia, clearances from the latter country amounting to only 580,000 bushels compared with 2,439,000 bushels for the previous week. Total shipments from the southern hemisphere were still higher than for the same week last year. North American clearances were slightly higher for the week amounting to 4,933,000 bushels compared with 4,475,000 bushels for the previous week.

Pears from Australia

An interesting item in the imports from Australia is fresh pears. During the first three months of the present fiscal year the importation was 677,135 pounds compared with 47,500 in the corresponding three months last year.

Pineapples from the Straits Settlements

There has been a large increase of late in the importation of canned pineapples. These are coming mainly from the Straits Settlements. The total imports in the last twelve months were 13,990,000 pounds as against 11,296,000 in the previous twelve months.



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