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Economic Index showed fractional declines from the Preceding Week and from the Same Week of 1936

Owing to the decline of three out of the six major factors, the economic index receded from 111.8 in the first week of August to 111.7, a decline of 0.2 p.c. Capitalized bond yields and the speculative factors recorded gains in this comparison but the influence of the decline in the other three factors was of more importance in its effect upon the general index. The recessions in the business indexes including carloadings and wholesale prices were of minor proportions, wholesale prices being practically maintained. The amount of cheques cashed by the banks was at a somewhat lower level, the adjusted index of bank clearings retreating from 100.2 to 98.0. The advance in common stock prices in progress for seven weeks was continued, a gain of 0.7 p.c. having been shown in the index. Trading on the stock exchanges was more active, the index on the base of 1926 moving up to 101.6.

Dospite the advancing trend of the economic index since the latter part of June, a decline of 0.7 p.c. was shown in the second week of August from the same week of 1936. The economic index rose sharply during August and September of last year owing to the simultaneous rise in most of the factors used in the compilation. Carloadings were heavy at this time of last year owing to the early movement of grain, and wholesale prices moved up sharply during July and August. Bend prices at this time last year had reached a higher point than for many years. Throe of the six major factors showed a gain over the same week of last year. These included the business factors of carloadings and wholesale prices and the index of common stock prices. The lead of commodity prices over last year was practically 13 p.c. while a gain of 4 p.c. was shown in railway traffic. The rally in common stock prices get under way at an earlier date this year and the index was about  $17\frac{1}{2}$  p.c. higher than in the same week of 1936. The index of capitalized bond yields showed a decline of 7.6 p.c. from the high level of August 15 last year, and the lower level of this factor was the main influence in depressing the general index. Recessions, however, were also shown in the adjusted index of bank clearings and in the number of shares traded.

The railway freight movement declined 2.1 p.c. from the 30th week but still showed a gain of 4.1 p.c. over the same week of last year. The decline from the preceding week was 1,869 cars and the index receded from 83.6 to 81.9. During the first 31 weeks of the year, however, traffic showed an increase of nearly 130,000 cars, the total for the present year having been 1,483,000 cars. This record was achieved despite the decline of nearly 43,000 cars of grain and grain products.

A recession occurred in whelesale prices for the fourth consecutive week, but the downward movement in the index was limited to 0.1 p.c. Appreciable recessions were shown in crop products and non-ferrous metals, while animal products recorded a gain. Number 1 Northern wheat averaged higher at  $134\frac{3}{4}$  against 1327/8. Barley averaged slightly lower while other coarse grains showed gains. Live stock prices were uneven on the Teronto stockyards, medium steers receding from 7.58 to 7.49, while bacon hogs advanced from 10.84 to 11.33.

Metals were steady on the New York exchange at the increased prices shown in the preceding week, although tin receded from 60.4 cents to 60. Prices of metals on the Longon exchange showed reaction during the week. The price of electrelytic copper on August 17 was £64 los against £66 on August 10. Lead receded from £22 los 3d to £22 los, while zinc was off from £24 los 9d to £24 2s 6d. A corresponding decline was shown in the export price of copper at New York which was 14.15 cents per pound on the 17th of August against 14.90 on the 10th. In Canada general weakness was apparent in nonferrous metals and the index drepped from 87.2 to 86.5.

After having been remarkably steady for about 0 weeks, bend prices recorded a rally in the week under review. The index of capitalized bend yields showed a gain of nearly 1 p.c., the index advancing from 145.3 to 146.6. The bid quotation for the  $4\frac{1}{2}$ 's of 1947-57 was  $109\frac{3}{4}$  on August 16, against 109 3/8 on the 9th. The 3's of 1950-55 were unchanged at  $96\frac{3}{4}$ . The  $4\frac{1}{2}$ 's of 1946 advanced from  $109\frac{3}{4}$  to 110 1/8 and the 4's of 1947-52 were 106 3/8 against  $106\frac{1}{4}$ . The rise in Dominion bends was due to a renewal of institutional buying. The level was higher than at any time since the latter part of February but a decline of 7.6 p.c. was shown in the index of capitalized yields from the levels of the same week of 1936.

The index of common stock prices advanced one point during the week, continuing the upward trend of the preceding six weeks. Each of the industrial groups showed advances except oils and textiles. The index of 15 power and traction stocks advanced one point to 92.9. Bank stocks showed a minor recession while considerable advance was recorded in the mining department.

Weekly Economic Indox with the Six Components

Wook Endod		Car load- ingsl	Whole- sale Pricos	Inverted Index of Bond Yields2	Bank Clear- ings3	Pricos of Common Stocks	Shares Tradod	Economic Indox4	
Aug.	15, 1936	78.6	76.1	158.7	100.7	116.4	124.2	112.4	
	7, 1937	83.6	86.0	145.3	100.2	135.7	84.0	111.8	
Aug.	14, 1937	81.9	85.9	146.6	98.0	136.7	101.6	111.7	

1. The index of carleadings is projected forward one week to correspond with the practice in computing the economic index. 2. Prosent value of a fixed net income in perpetuity from Dominion long-term bends. 3. Bank clearings were smoothed by taking a three weeks moving average for the purpose of climinating irregular fluctuations. Totals for Ottawa were climinated for all weeks shown, owing to incomparability introduced by the operations of the Bank of Canada. 4. The weighting of the six major factors is determined from the standard deviation from the long-term trend of each, based on data for the period from January 1919 to August 1936. The long-term trend determined from half-yearly data in the post-war period was climinated from the composite and the resulting index expressed as a percentage of the average during 1926.

### Economic Conditions in July

Economic conditions recorded betterment in July over the preceding menth. Most of the major factors showed gains counterbalancing the declines of May and June. The index of wholesale prices advanced from 84.6 to 87.5, marked increases being shown in crop products and non-ferrous metals. The change in Deminion bend prices was very slight, the market for high-grades having been steady for a greater part of the period. The index of capitalized bend yields averaged 144.9 against 144.3 in July. The considerable increase in demand deposits offset the decline in savings accounts, the net result being a slight increase in the total. Stock markets recovered rather sharply toward the end of the menth, the index for July having been 133.0 as against 129.4 in June.

According to preliminary calculations, business operations were practically maintained at the high level of the preceding menth. The factors showing the trend of mineral production were uneven. Copper experts recorded an increase and were greater than in any other July in history. While nicked experts were also at a maximum for the menth, a decline was shown from June even after seasonal adjustment. Zinc experts rose to an exceedingly high level in July, the index advancing from 216.3 to 317.6. Gold shipments from Canadian mines showed a contraseasenal decline while silver consignments were in larger amount. Asbestes experts of better grades were at a semewhat higher level after seasonal adjustment.

The manufacture of foodstuffs showed a gain, the index advancing from 96.0 to 99.5. Flour production was slightly over one million barrels compared with 900,000 in the preceding month. The manufacture of sugar was nearly maintained the index recoding from 67.1 to 66.7. Shoop slaughterings showed a marked increase while declines in cattle and hogs were greater than normal for the season. Increase in factory choese production was less than normal for the season while creamery butter also recorded recession after the usual adjustment. The change in the experts of canned salmon was slight. The release of tobacco for consumption showed a decline, the index dropping from 166.7 to 161.3.

Newsprint was produced in heavy volume being greater than in any other month. The index on the base of 1926 advanced one point to 196.7. Experts of wood pulp and lumber showed recession the outward shipment of planks and boards having been 171 million feet against 182 million in June.

The iron and steel industry continued active, production of steel ingots having been nearly 123,000 tons against 118,744. Pig iron production showed a gain from 79,736 tons against 78,278. The decline in automobile production was less than normal for the season the index consequently advancing from 119.8 to 134.7. The output was 17,941 units against 23,841. The manufacture of pneumatic casings was heavy being 261,918 against 237,718. Building permits were slightly more than maintained in July, the award of contracts dropping from \$30.400,000 to \$21,500,000. The general index for construction consequently retreated from 64.0 to 48.7.

The railway traffic showed a gain in July when a decline would have normally been anticipated from seasonal considerations. The index moved up from 78.5 to 85.8. The loadings were 219,290 against 214,229 cars. The expert trade showed a decline from the high level of the preceding menth, the total being about \$100 million against \$109 million in June. The index receded from 121.3 to 108.1.

The Economic Situation in July 1937 compared with July 1936

			July 1937		July 1936		Inc. + Dec	
						Per	Per Cent	
Physical volume of business	1926 = 1	00	126	4*	110.8	+	14.	
Wholesale prices	1926 = 1	00	87.	5	74.3	+	17.8	
Common stocks	1926 = 1	00	133.	.0	114.3	+	16.4	
Inverted index of Dominion bond	yields 1926	= 100	144	9	153.6	000	5.	
Mineral production								
Copper exports	cwt		434,710		324,979	+	33.8	
Nickel exports	cwt		175,015		137,442	+	27 .:	
Zinc exports	cwt		403,017		234,041	+		
Gold shipments	fine oz.		327,885		308,984	+		
Silver shipments	fine oz.		853, 244		552,134	+		
Manufacturing production								
Sugar manufactured	1b	67,	278,417	94,	693,262	400	29.0	
Canned salmon exports	cwt		18,206		20,403	-	10.	
Newsprint production	tons		314,529		274,627	+	14.	
Planks and boards exported	ft		241,000		897,000	+	11.3	
Woodpulp exports	ewt		443,302		403,576	+	2.1	
Shingles exported	squares		183,009		219,052	-		
Pig iron production	tons		79,736		34,988	+	127.	
Automobile production	no		17,941		10,475	+		
Steel production	tons		122,968		68,793	+		
Carloadings	no		219,290		202,743	+	8.2	
Contracts awarded	\$	21,	485,300	17,	868,500	+	20.2	
Building permits	\$	_	397,422	_	029,802	+	7.3	

<sup>\*</sup> Preliminary, 34 items out of 46

#### Export of Grains and Flour

Although the export of Canadian wheat decreased to 174,858,160 bushels during the twelve months ended July from 232,019,649 in the previous year, there was a substantial gain in the total value, rising to \$198,403,951 from \$190,176,575, the average export price being \$1.13 as compared with 82 cents. The United Kingdom was the chief purchaser during the crop year just ended with 124,368,897 bushels of the value of \$141,753,615 as compared with 162,920,206 valued at \$134,605,959. The amount to the United States was 14,868,352 bushels worth \$15,788,844 as compared with 29,078,723 at \$22,647,584.

The volume of wheat flour sent abroad was also lower than in the 1936 crop year, amounting to 4,525,665 barrels of the value of \$23,421,587 as compared with 4,978,917 barrels at \$20,020,094. The average export price rose to \$5.17 from \$4.00 per barrel. The United Kingdom took more than half of the total, amounting to 2,327,196 barrels worth \$12,203,208 as compared with 2,459,532 at \$9,886,058.

Among the coarse grains barley was the feature of the year's trade, the total export being 17,555,833 bushels of the value of \$15,288,378 as compared with 7,675,749 at \$3,678,120, going chiefly to the United States. Purchases by the United States increased to 15,082,377 bushels from 878,502 the year before. The export of cats was considerably lower, amounting to 5,997,362 bushels worth \$2,892,800 as compared with 11,981,306 at \$3,986,508, of which the United Kingdom took 4,618,117 bushels at \$2,156,904. Rye amounted to 3,633,032 bushels at \$3,228,476 as compared with 2,455,841 bushels worth \$1,191,133, of which the United States took 1,315,693 bushels.

## Building Pormits

The value of the building represented by the permits taken cut in 58 citics during July recorded a seasonal decline of \$616,246 from the previous menth, however, there was an increase of \$367,620 ever July, 1936. The total in the latest menth was \$5,397,422 compared with \$6,013,668 the menth before and \$5,029,802 in July, 1936. The total value for the first seven menths of the year was \$33,378,744, a gain of 42.9 p.c. ever the same period of the previous year. This total was also decidedly higher than in the same period of other years since 1931.

Montreal, Torento, Winnipeg and Vancouver all recorded decreases from July, 1936. The leading cities were as fellows, with figures for July, 1936, in brackets: Terento, \$1,027,580 (\$776,851); Montreal, \$619,659 (\$1,182,471); Vancouver, \$514,655 (\$338,520); Windsor, \$504,779 (\$101,802); Halifax, \$396,,170 (\$96,445); Hamilton, \$275,299 (\$90,550); Winnipeg, \$212,850 (\$168,250); Ottawa, \$125,438 (\$195,799); Kitchener, \$97,725 (\$43,780); Westmount, \$91,155 (\$41,060); Three Rivers, \$87,745 (\$427,810); London, \$87,415 (\$77,730); St. Beniface, \$84,080 (\$2,950).

## Railways in May

Not operating revenues of Canadian railways in May increased to \$4,058,009 from the total for the same menth last year of \$3,233,424. Total operating revenues increased to \$29,256,948 in May from \$27,002,242 in the same menth last year. Total operating expenses were \$25,198,939 as compared with \$23,788,818.

Gross revenues of Canadian lines of the Canadian National Railways were \$13,812,894 in May as compared with \$12,395,219, and the operating income was increased by \$751,053. Gross revenues of the Canadian Pacific Railway increased from \$11,345,830 last year to \$11,870,381, and the operating income increased from \$1,450,289 to \$1,574,219.

# Rotail Prices, Rents and Costs of Services

The Dominion Bureau of Statistics index number of retail prices, rents and costs of services on the base 1926=100, rose from 82.7 in June to 83.0 in July, a moderate decline in the fuel group being more than offset by higher feed prices. An index for 46 food items increased from 76.4 to 77.2, due to gains for eggs, creamery butter, meats and onions. A rise in sirlein beef from 28.3 cents to 29.5, in fresh pork from 21.8 to 22.6, and in bacon from 28.8 to 29.1 per pound were representative of higher meat prices. Onions rese from 5.9 cents to 6.1 per pound.

# Canada's Trade in the First Six Months

Canada's total trade in the first six menths of 1937 was higher than in any corresponding period since 1930. The total was \$907,000,000 as compared with \$718,000,000 in the same period of 1936; \$612,000,000 in 1935; \$598,000,000 in 1934; \$404,000,000 in 1933; \$498,000,000 in 1932; \$654,000,000 in 1931 and \$991,000,000 in 1930.

The exchange of goods between Canada and the United States in the six menths reached the highest point since 1930, amounting to \$475,175,000 as compared with \$349,523,000 in 1936; \$317,472,000 in 1935; \$292,678,000 in 1934; \$180,974,000 in 1933, \$268,053,000 in 1932; \$373,646,000 in 1931, and \$596,938,000 in 1930.

Trade with the United Kingdom made the best showing since 1929 when the total was \$218,356,000. The total in the first six menths of 1937 was \$246,167,000 compared with \$215,848,000 in 1936; \$169,948,000 in 1935; \$184,378,000 in 1934; \$128,606,000 in 1933; \$108,340,000 in 1932; \$128,155,000 in 1931 and \$172,710,000 in 1930.

### Iron and Steel Production in 1936

Gross production of iron and steel and their products in 1936 was valued at \$441,244,332 at factory prices. This was 13 per cent above 1935 and 43 per cent above 1934, but it was still 22 per cent below the 1930 total and 40 per cent under 1929. Each of the individual industries, except automobile manufacturing, reported a substantial improvement over 1935.

### Crude Petroleum Production

Crude petroleum and natural gasoline production during May amounted to 192,845 barrels as compared with 188,014 in the previous month and 114,297 in the corresponding month of 1936. Output during the five months ended May aggregated 852,500 barrels, an increase of 49.8 per cent over the same period of 1936.

Alberta sources produced 175,997 barrels in May as compared with 172,608 in the preceding month and 98,789 in May, 1936. The total from the Turner Valley field was 173,672 barrels, 1,211 from the Red Coulee field and 1,114 from the Wainwright field.

#### Natural Gas Production

Natural gas production amounted to 1,759,878,000 cubic feet in May as compared with 2,254,401,000 the month before and 1,784,601,000 in May, 1936. Output during the five months ended May totalled 13,795,588,000 compared with 14,431,382,000 cubic feet in the same period of 1936.

### Silver Production

The May output of silver in Canada amounted to 1,352,580 ounces as compared with 1,488,350 in the previous month and 1,419,146 in May, 1936. The average price of silver at New York in Canadian funds was 44.961 cents in May, at which price the output was worth \$608,133. Production during the first five months of the year amounted to 7,212,785 ounces, an increase of 6.2 per cent over the same period of 1936.

#### Production of Lead

The Canadian production of load in May amounted to 34,183,050 pounds compared with 35,154,985 in the provious month and 32,047,660 in the corresponding month last year. Quotations for load at London averaged 5.275 cents per pound in Canadian funds, at which price the production in the latest month was worth \$1,803,156. During the period January to May, Canada's production of load advanced 9.8 per cent to 167,162,552 pounds from the total for the corresponding months of 1936.

### Zinc Production

Canada produced 31,649,474 pounds of zinc in May compared with 33,121,107 in the previous month and 29,629,858 in May, 1936. The average price at London was 5.0697 cents per pound during May, giving the month's production a total value of \$1,604,533. Total production during the five months ended May was 136,537,593 pounds, an advance of nearly seven per cent in comparison with the same period of 1936.

### Asbestos Production

Shipments of asbestos by Canadian producers during May amounted to 37,636 tons as compared with 42,267 in April and 27,361 in May, 1936. During the five months ended May, 162,404 tons of asbestos were shipped as compared with 97,245 tons in the same period of 1936.

#### Imported Coffee

Green coffee imported direct or purchased in bond in the United Kingdom amounted to 2,755,137 pounds in June, of the value of \$286,365 as compared with 3,408,064 at \$293,913 a year ago. Jamaica was the chief source with 881,211 pounds, followed by British East Africa with 772,160 pounds, Colombia 424,093, Brazil 331,475, United Kingdom 136,260, Trinidad and Tobago 134,400 and Guatemala 35,619.

# Toa Imports

Tea imports aggregated 3,091,557 pounds, of the value of \$747,305 as compared with 1,859,064 at \$473,543 in June, 1936. Tea of India amounted to 1,800,113 pounds compared with 819,843 a year ago; tea of Coylon, 764,497 (870,567); tea of Japan, 308,818 (121,935); and of China, 35,312 (34,461).

### Coal Production in June

Coal production in Canada during June amounted to 1,063,865 tons as compared with 1,037,700 a year ago, and 888,715 tons, the five-year average for the month. Alberta, British Columbia and New Brunswick reported increases but there were slight reductions in Nova Scotia and Saskatchewan.

Canada imported 1,944,920 tons of coal in June; a year ago, 1,683,704 tons, while the 1932-1936 average for the month was 1,360,466. Imports of anthracite coal included 165,816 from the United States, 154,156 from Great Britain, 44,319 from Germany and 13,620 from Russia. Bituminous coal importations were made up of 1,535,100 tons from the United States, 22,067 from Germany, and 9,839 from Great Britain. Exports of Canadian coal in June advanced to 33,993 tons from 32,639 last year and the June, 1932-1936 average of 22,892.

# Sales and Purchases of Securities

The direction and volume of the international trade in securities in June changed very little from that of the previous month. As in May, the volume was reduced to about one-half of that in each of the first four months of the year and there was a balance of purchases of about \$2,000,000.

The most important change in June was a slight contraction in the trade with the United State which was offset by an expansion in the transactions between the United Kingdom and Canada. The repurchase or balance by Canadians of Canadian stocks from the United States continued to characterize the trade with the United States. In the trade with the United Kingdom, there was a shrinkage in the dealings in Canadian stocks, but this was more than counterbalanced by increases in the trading in bonds and short-term securities.

Although on balance the total net purchases by Canadians were only about \$5,000,000 during the half year, not purchases from the United States by Canadians exceeded \$30,000,000 and were mostly concentrated in repurchases of Canadian common and preference stocks held in the United States, this category constituting about \$18,000,000 of the net purchases. Total net purchases of Canadian bonds and debentures from the United States were only about \$5,000,000, but net purchases of provincial, municipal and corporation bonds were greater than this amount as those were partly reduced by net sales to the United States of Dominion Government bonds and issues guaranteed by the Dominion Government, as well as other railway bonds. The volume of the trade in United States stocks between Canada and the United States was heavier than the trade in Canadian securities, but the sales and purchases of these were about equal. There were net purchases by Canadians of about \$8,000,000 of United States bonds, however.

On the other hand, in the trade with the United Kingdom, sales exceeded purchases by almost \$20,000,000, most of which were of Canadian common and preference stocks, although not sales of short-term securities and United Kingdom bonds also contributed to the surplus sales. The trade with countries other than the United Kingdom and the United States was small in volume. The net sales of over \$7,000,000 during the period were, for the most part, sales of Canadian stocks.

# Production of Iron and Steel

Production of 79,736 tons of pig iron in Canada during July compares with 78,278 tons for last month and 34,988 tons for July, 1936. Sixty-six per cent, or 52,445 tons, were for the use of the makers and the balance of 27,291 tons was for sale. For the first seven months of this year, 934,016 tons of iron ore, 269,529 tons of limostone and 503,768 tons of coke were charged to iron blast furnaces to make 503,680 tons of pig iron. For the corresponding period of 1936, production amounted to 375,323 tons.

Output of ferro-alloys at 6,285 tons in July showed a sharp advance from the low for the year of 2,635 tons in June and compares with 10,962 in July, 1936. Steel ingots and castings amounted to 122,968 tons as against 118,744 in the previous month and 68,793 a year ago. For the seven months ending July 31, the cumulative output of primary steel totalled 836,145 tons, as against 647,493 during the corresponding period of 1936.

#### Wheat Stocks and Movement

Canadian wheat in store for the week ending August 13 showed a decrease of 794,608 bushels when compared with the previous week and 87,892,612 from the corresponding week in 1936. The amount in store was 29,227,704 bushels compared with 30,022,312 the week before and 117,120,316 last year. Wheat in rail transit amounted to 339,237 bushels compared with 7,554,665 a year ago; wheat in transit on the lakes totalled 1,442,291 bushels compared with 2,058,116. Canadian wheat in store in the United States amounted to 3,310,720 bushels compared with 3,425,420 a week ago and 19,458,905 a year ago.

Wheat marketings in the Prairie Provinces during the week of July 30 amounted to 612,671 bushels compared with 704,700 in the previous week and 901,019 in the corresponding week last year. Total marketings from August 1 to July 30 were 165,596,453 bushels compared with 216,273,373 during the same period of the previous crop year.

Overseas export clearances of wheat during the week ending August 12 amounted to 1,183,798 bushels as compared with 1,476,892 in the previous week and 4,190,351 in the same week last year. Imports of Canadian wheat into the United States for consumption and milling in bond for re-export totalled 197,000 bushels compared with 182,000 the week before and 1,285,000 a year ago. Total overseas clearances from August 1 to August 12 were 2,660,690 bushels compared with 7,855,043 in the same period of 1936-37, while imports into the United States were 399,000 bushels as compared with 2,712,000.

The fifth paragraph of "Stocks of Grain in Canada" appearing in last wook's Bulletin should read as follows: "Large reductions are shown in the carry-over figures of oats, barley and rye from those of a year ago, while an increased quantity of flaxseed is noted over the same date in 1936. Stocks were as follows, with 1936 figures in brackets: Oats 18,278,808 (40,304,697) bushels; barley, 4,363,235 (9,827,631); flaxseed, 464,967 (269, 287); ryo, 409, 702 (3, 194, 369)."

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- 3. Iron and Steel and Their Products, 1936.
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- 11. Summary of Exports of Canadian Grains and Flour, July.
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