

WEEKLY BULLETIN

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Weekly Review of Economic Conditions

Five of the six factors indicating the trend of conditions, showed decline in the third week of June. An appreciable advance was recorded in the adjusted index of bank clearings. Carloadings showed a marked decline and trading was at a considerably lower level. Capitalized bond yields alone of the six factors considered here showed a gain over the same week of 1937. The decline in carloadings was 13.5 p.c. while a drop of 26.3 p.c. was shown in common stocks.

The railway freight movement recorded a recession in the twenty-third week of the year, the seasonally adjusted index of carloadings being down from 68.4 to 66.3. The index in the week under review was at a low point for several years. In the computation of the index, however, no adjustment was made for the holiday on June 9. After showing slight gains in March and April, the index of the physical volume of business, according to the preliminary calculations showed a decline of about 2 points. The trend was uneven in May, many factors showing favourable comparisons with the same month in the post-war period.

Six of the main groups tabulated in connection with the measurement of wholesale prices recorded declines in the week of June 17. A gain in crop products tended to offset the recession in the other groups, the drop in the general index being limited to one-tenth of 1 p.c. to 80.2. Advances were recorded in wheat, oats and rye on the Winnipeg grain exchange, while barley and flax showed decline. Marked gains were shown in metals on the London exchange, electrolytic copper rising from £38 on June 14, to £40 on the 21. Sharp increases were also shown in lead and zinc. The price of export copper in New York rose from 8.65 to 9.05, while lead and zinc remained unchanged. Livestock prices on the Toronto stockyards showed a rise to a new high point for sometime.

Dominion bonds showed a recession in the week of June 16, but have recently rallied to a somewhat higher point. The average weekly yield of the issues included in the index advanced from 3.00 to 3.01. The bid quotation for the 4½'s of 1947-57 was 111 7/8 on June 21, against 111 5/8 on the 14th. The 3's of 1950-55 moved up from 98¾ to 99¼. While bond prices showed an advance during May and June 1937, a considerable lead is still being shown over the quotations of one year ago.

While the index of common stock prices receded from 95.9 to 95.1, five of the nine industrial groups recorded advances. The index of 15 power and traction stocks remained unchanged at 59.4. The index of nine banks advanced one-tenth of one point to 80.3.

The weekly index, based on the above-mentioned factors, was 107.0 in the week of June 18, against 107.1 in the preceding week. The gain in bank clearings was the main influence in raising the index, as the five other factors showed recession. Compared with one year ago, the index showed a decline of 1.6 p.c., the standing at that time having been 108.8.

Weekly Economic Index with the Six Components  
1926 = 100

Week Ended	Car loadings <sup>1</sup>	Whole-sale Prices	Capitalized Bond Yields <sup>2</sup>	Bank Clearings <sup>3</sup>	Prices of Common Stocks	Shares Traded	Economic Index <sup>4</sup>
June 19, 1937	76.65	84.2	144.1	98.9	129.0	93.8	108.8
June 11, 1938	68.41	80.3	161.8	91.4	95.9	60.3	107.1
June 18, 1938	66.33	80.2	161.0	95.8	95.1	56.1	107.0

1. The index of carloadings is projected forward one week to correspond with the practice in computing the economic index. 2. Present value of a fixed net income in perpetuity from Dominion long-term bonds. 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. 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 weighting therefore represents, not an attempt to give the relative importance of the factors, but to place them on an equal footing by equating the tendency toward fluctuation. The long-term trend determined from half-yearly data in the post-war period was eliminated from the composite and the resulting index expressed as a percentage of the average during 1926.







## Economic Conditions in May

The factors indicating the trend of economic conditions averaged slightly higher in May than in the preceding month. Declines were shown in wholesale prices and business operations. The money factors including capitalized bond yields and bank deposits rose to a higher position while common stock prices also averaged slightly higher than in the preceding month. The index of wholesale prices dropped from 82.3 in April to 80.3 in the month under review. After showing a decline during April and the early weeks of May, the index has shown a steady tendency at slightly above 80 p.c. of the 1926 level. Non-metallic minerals and chemicals recorded a gain in May while six other main groups reached a lower position. Dominion Government bonds rose to a new high point for the present century during the month under review. Bank deposits recorded a gain at the beginning of May, slightly greater than normal for the season. While the weekly trend of common stock prices was downward during May, the index averaged higher at 99.7 against 97.9 in April.

According to preliminary calculations, the index of the physical volume of business dropped two points to 110.4. Despite the reaction from April, after seasonal adjustment, many of the 46 factors entering into the compilation reached a high position relative to the same month of the post-war period.

Exports of copper at 59 million pounds were greater than in any other month. The outward movement of nickel at nearly 17 million pounds was higher than in any other May excepting 1937. Zinc exports were 32 million pounds against 20 million, the increase being greater than seasonal expectations. Gold shipments from Canadian mines were somewhat below the high level of the preceding month, the index receding 10 points to 273. Silver shipments adjusted for the exports from the Bank of Canada, were at a much lower level in May than in the preceding month. Declines were also shown in asbestos exports and bauxite imports although the movement of the latter was greater than in any other May.

The manufacture of foodstuffs showed a gain in May, the index rising, after seasonal adjustment, to the highest point of the present year. The gain in the index over April was about  $5\frac{1}{2}$  p.c. to 101.4. The manufacture of sugar was higher than in any other May since 1925. The operations of the meat-packing industry were nearly maintained at the high level of the preceding month, gains being recorded in the slaughterings of cattle and sheep. The production of creamery butter was higher than in any other May since 1932 when monthly statistics were first compiled. Cheese exports were greater than in any May since 1928. A considerable gain was shown in canned salmon exports over the preceding month. The volume gain in tobacco releases was less than normal for the season, the index consequently dropping from 187 to 169. The index of raw cotton consumption increased from 105 to 108.6, recession being less than normal for the season. Declines were shown in the imports of cotton yarn and wool.

The declining trend in the forestry industry was continued in May, the index dropping off from 100.4 to 91.9. The gain from April in newsprint production was slightly less than normal for the season, while woodpulp exports recorded an advance. The increase in the exports of planks and boards was more than normal for the season, the total having been about 125 million feet.

The primary iron and steel industry was more active, increases having been shown in the production of steel ingots and pig iron. The automobile output was slightly more than maintained, after the usual adjustment. Imports of petroleum were greater than in any other May, the total having been 133 million gallons. Crude rubber imports moved up from 2.2 million to 5.7 million pounds.

Building permits were greater than in any May since 1931. Construction contracts awarded, however, showed a decline after seasonal adjustment and the general index for construction retreated from 57 to 49. The railway freight movement was slightly more than maintained after seasonal adjustment, the index advancing from 71.4 to 71.8.







Economic Factors in May compared with April  
and May 1937

	May 1938	May 1937	April 1938
Physical Volume of Business .....	110.4*	122.0	112.4 **
Wholesale prices .....	80.3	85.2	82.3
Common stock prices .....	99.7	132.2	97.9
Capitalized bond yields, Dominion .....	162.1	140.8	157.0
Bank deposits .....	121.2	121.1	121.1
Mineral production:			
Copper exports .....	cwt. 590,169	350,004	389,702
Nickel exports .....	cwt. 169,086	217,522	118,033
Zinc exports .....	cwt. 323,174	342,249	201,796
Gold shipments .....	fine oz. 354,965	323,879	364,375
Silver shipments .....	fine oz. 595,160	1,589,689	1,208,492
Asbestos exports .....	tons 19,057	22,163	13,924
Manufacturing Production:			
Sugar Manufactured .....	lb. 95,504,000	87,559,375	28,008,721
Cattle slaughterings .....	no. 166,718	149,515	143,596
Creamery butter production .....	lb. 29,095,028	24,511,895	16,397,918
Factory cheese production .....	lb. 11,471,559	11,216,617	1,721,077
Canned salmon exports .....	cwt. 24,430	46,423	13,948
Newsprint production .....	tons 207,678	309,232	200,794
Woodpulp exports .....	cwt. 965,925	1,589,614	651,793
Exports of planks and boards .....	ft. 124,957,000	152,758,000	90,978,000
Shingles exported .....	squares 58,393	208,076	764,550
Steel ingot production .....	tons 114,859	120,843	116,445
Pig iron production .....	tons 71,602	78,147	65,644
Automobile production .....	No. 18,115	23,458	18,819
Construction:			
Contracts awarded .....	\$ 18,590,000	24,170,500	15,027,700
Building permits .....	\$ 6,576,246	5,299,489	4,879,867
Carloadings .....	No. 180,164	208,820	184,734

\* Preliminary    \*\* Revised

### May Canal Traffic

Due to a light movement of iron ore down and coal up the Sault Ste. Marie Canals, total tonnage through the locks declined from 14,109,494 tons in May last year to 3,365,290 in May this year. Wheat shipments were slightly heavier, amounting to 13,050,290 bushels, and other grains increased from 5,646,040 to 18,188,760 bushels.

Total freight using the Welland Ship Canal amounted to 1,740,439 tons in May compared with 1,622,392 last year. The increase of 118,047 tons was due largely to heavy shipments of corn down the canal, totalling 601,646 tons compared with 125,502. Wheat, flaxseed, soft coal, iron ore and sand, gravel and stone declined.

Freight on the St. Lawrence Canals increased to 1,512,230 tons in May from 1,244,208 last year. Barley shipments increased by 92,441 tons and corn by 350,758, but flaxseed declined by 24,741 tons and wheat 122,254. Petroleum and other oils increased by 49,411 tons, hard coal by 21,645, and iron ore by 7,820. Soft coal declined 52,752 tons and coke 37,380.

### Sales of Oil Burners

Canadian manufacturers sold 3,912 oil burners during 1937 for a total of \$242,613. This total included 1,381 power type and 2,521 atmospheric, gravity feed type. Production in 1937 included 1,471 power burners and 2,135 of the gravity feed type compared with 1,136 power and 5,218 gravity in 1936.







## Canada's Trade in May

Canada's trade was of the value of \$139,914,000 in May compared with \$182,311,000 in May, 1937. The value of both domestic exports and imports was lower, exports amounting to \$67,770,000 compared with \$103,525,000, and imports \$67,123,000 compared with \$76,707,000. The value of re-exports of imported commodities advanced to \$5,022,000 from \$2,079,000. Duties collected on imports during the month amounted to \$8,520,000 compared with \$9,362,000.

## Domestic Exports in May

Exports of Canadian products in May amounted in value to \$67,769,500 compared with \$103,524,553 in May, 1937. The amount to countries of the British Empire was \$36,062,455 against \$43,042,147; the total to foreign countries was \$31,707,045 against \$60,482,406. The value of domestic products exported to the United States and the United Kingdom was considerably lower, the total to the former being less than half the amount for May, 1937.

The United Kingdom was the leading purchaser of Canadian goods during the month with a total of \$27,889,138 compared with \$34,628,540; the United States followed with \$21,177,087 compared with \$47,982,975. Australia increased her purchases to the value of \$2,485,640 from \$2,328,121, Germany to \$1,344,830 from \$979,241 and British South Africa to \$1,301,212 from \$1,097,109. The total to Japan was \$1,210,561 against \$2,331,090, to New Zealand \$1,000,453 against \$1,255,680, and Norway \$943,599 against \$456,315.

Exports to Turkey recorded a marked gain to \$745,669 from \$7,393. The total to Newfoundland was \$724,636 against \$869,273; Netherlands, \$720,721 against \$2,488,906; France, \$670,108 against \$561,914; Argentina, \$492,842 against \$254,551; Jamaica, \$475,536 against \$611,622; Brazil, \$469,646 against \$224,279 and Sweden \$422,170 against \$132,165.

Other chief markets were as follows, with figures for May, 1937 in brackets: Trinidad and Tobago, \$329,112 (\$379,003); Czechoslovakia, \$316,327 (\$79,271); British India, \$281,192 (\$357,137); Hong Kong, \$241,169 (\$116,138); China, \$222,801 (\$524,401); Straits Settlements, \$222,476 (\$81,000); French Africa, \$221,048 (\$4,646); Eire, \$217,005 (\$210,530); Greece, \$208,000 (--).

## Production of Iron and Steel

Production of pig iron in May at 71,602 tons was a nine per cent advance over the previous month's total and eight per cent under the tonnage reported for May, 1937. The month's output included 60,265 tons of basic iron, 2,196 tons of foundry iron and 9,141 tons of malleable iron. During the five months ended May, 339,783 tons of pig iron were produced compared with 345,666 in the same period of 1937.

Output of steel ingots and direct steel castings at 114,859 tons was slightly under the 116,445 tons of April and five per cent less than the 120,843 tons made in May, 1937. The cumulative total for the five months ended May was 561,340 tons against 594,433 a year ago and 496,504 two years ago.

Ferrosilicon, spiegeleisen, ferromanganese and ferrochrome were produced in May to the extent of 6,441 tons compared with 8,686 in the previous month and 6,201 in May, 1937.

Prices of steel sheets and scrap were revised downward in May but other iron and steel products remained comparatively firm. Some contract buying appeared which was largely for war materials, but small spot orders predominated. Operations of auto manufacturing plants were below those of last year. Output of plants manufacturing railway rolling stock increased, and mills continued to take limited quantities of scrap.







Condition of Fruit and Vegetable  
Crops at the Middle of June

Reports throughout the Dominion show that almost without exception the orchards and small fruits came through the winter without any damage. In the Maritime Provinces the only damage reported was the 50 per cent killing of raspberry plantations in Colchester County. The cool moist weather stimulated growth but retarded the flowering period. In both New Brunswick and Nova Scotia the long spring enabled the growers to spray their orchards more thoroughly than in any year in the past. Partly due to the weather and partly to the thorough spraying, insect and fungus injury are at a minimum. The strawberries in both these provinces are looking exceptionally well at this time and better than average crops are expected. In Nova Scotia the crop was being harvested in commercial quantities about the 18th of June, while in New Brunswick picking is not expected to begin until the 25th. The apple crop in Nova Scotia according to the latest reports will be only average and will be about 20 per cent less than last year. In New Brunswick the apple crop is also expected to be considerably below last year but will still be equal to or slightly better than average.

In Quebec the strawberry crop was being harvested in commercial quantities about June 16 in the Montreal area while picking is not expected until July 1 in the Quebec City section. The crop prospects at the present time look very favourable but rain is the deciding factor. The apple trees showed heavy bloom but the set is considerably below first expectations. So far reports do not estimate the size of the apple crop. All vegetable crops are progressing rapidly brought on by the hot dry weather. In Ontario the weather continues favourable although the eastern section reports that the size of the strawberry crop depends on future rains. The apple crop varies somewhat with the eastern section reporting slightly above average while the western section reports slightly below. The sour cherry crop is also below average but the sweet cherries will be slightly above average. Peaches will also be about average. The vegetable crop is progressing normally but rain is needed in some dry sections. The reports from Manitoba are not very promising. The weather has been cool and very dry. Late frosts destroyed some of the early vegetable crops and insects and dry weather may considerably reduce the remainder.

In British Columbia the reports throughout the province show a decided lack of moisture. Although the tree fruits are not affected, the shallow rooted crops are showing the result of the prolonged lack of rain. The most recent reports estimate a slight decrease in the apple and apricot crop while pears, cherries, plums and peaches show somewhat of an increase. The strawberry crop was at its peak on June 20 but is expected to continue for another week or 10 days. Raspberry movement is expected during the week of June 20 with carlot shipments by the end of the month. Cherries from the Lower Okanagan Valley have begun to move and heavy shipments will start about the 23rd.

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Wheat Stocks in Store

Canadian wheat in store for the week ending June 17 decreased 1,510,420 bushels from the previous week's total and 20,629,933 from the corresponding week last year. The amount in store was reported as 27,644,272 bushels compared with 29,174,692 the week before and 48,294,205 last year.

Stocks of Canadian wheat in the United States aggregated 927,000 bushels compared with 892,000 in the previous week and 5,944,294 a year ago. United States wheat in Canada totalled 795,577 bushels against 787,122 in the previous week and 43,127 in the corresponding week last year.

Wheat in rail transit amounted to 967,147 bushels compared with 1,067,095 in the previous week and 1,547,789 a year ago. Lake transit wheat totalled 1,457,898 bushels compared with 1,380,782 the week before and 2,303,117 a year ago.

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### Exports to the United States

Canada's domestic exports to the United States of commodities affected by the trade agreement were valued at \$13,774,548 in May compared with \$22,316,324 a year ago. During the five months ended May the value of these commodities was \$101,118,198 compared with \$189,116,861 in the corresponding period last year.

Newsprint exports declined in value to \$7,539,805 from \$9,173,705; wood pulp to \$1,550,510 from \$3,109,905; softwood planks and boards to \$618,057 from \$1,289,157; and whiskey to \$574,817 from \$1,634,932. Pulpwood advanced slightly to \$451,695. Fresh lobsters were valued at \$318,929 against \$438,122; artificial crude abrasives, \$290,018 against \$449,948; cattle, \$280,907 against \$1,286,388; asbestos, \$221,829 against \$445,320 and shingles \$152,878 against \$628,997.

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### Export of Cheese

Export of cheese in May amounted to 37,257 cwt. of the value of \$570,794 compared with 16,204 at \$253,044 in the previous month and 24,466 at \$358,536 in May, 1937. Purchases by the United Kingdom totalled 33,483 cwt. The United States, Newfoundland, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago were other chief markets.

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### Financing of Motor Vehicle Sales

There were 22,556 motor vehicles financed to the extent of \$10,089,544 in May compared with 20,915 for \$9,405,865 in April and 24,830 for \$10,565,573 in May last year. The gain over the previous month was less than the usual seasonal amount and was down 9.2 per cent in number and 4.5 per cent in value from May, 1937.

New vehicles financed during May were 14.5 per cent lower in number than in May last year and 8.9 per cent lower in amount. The number financed was 6,988 compared with 8,175; the amounts involved were \$5,295,003 and \$5,810,739, respectively. Used vehicles financed during the month totalled 15,568, a decrease of 6.5 per cent from the total of 16,655 a year ago; the values were \$4,794,541 and \$4,754,834, respectively.

During the first five months, financing of motor vehicle sales in Canada declined 8.1 per cent in number and 3.6 per cent in amount from the figures for the same period of 1937. Volume to date shows 70,192 vehicles financed for \$31,349,716 compared with 76,385 at \$32,507,181 last year.

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### Production of Concentrated Milk

The production of all items of concentrated milk in May amounted to 19,638,875 pounds, an increase over the preceding month of 4,303,165 pounds and 5,659,211 pounds more than in May, 1937. The large increase over May last year was attributable chiefly to the item evaporated milk, the production of which rose from 9,030,465 pounds to 13,245,192. Cumulative figures for the first five months this year indicate an output of 63,690,311 pounds compared with 47,205,120 in the corresponding period of 1937.

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### Output of Central Electric Stations

A reduction in the requirements of electric power by pulp and paper mills was the main factor in reducing the output of central electric stations in May to 2,081,935,000 kilowatt hours from the total for May, 1937, of 2,301,167,000. In the previous month the total was 2,063,801,000 kilowatt hours. Exports to the United States amounted to 155,292,000 kilowatt hours compared with 135,616,000 the month before and 161,033,000 a year ago. Consumption of firm power at 1,502,741,000 kilowatt hours was only slightly below the total of 1,519,545,000 kilowatt hours for 1937; in the previous month the total was 1,477,217,000 kilowatt hours.

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### Freight Traffic on Railways

Revenue freight loaded at Canadian stations and received from foreign connections during March amounted to 5,922,805 tons as against 6,632,733 a year ago and 5,720,778 two years ago. Freight loaded at Canadian stations declined 232,259 tons from last year's total, or by 5.2 per cent; imports declined 109,638 tons or 12 per cent; and foreign freight destined to foreign points declined by 368,031 tons, or 29 per cent.







## Housing in the Prairie Provinces

In urban localities of the Prairie Provinces 95 per cent of all buildings used for human habitation are single houses. The number of single dwelling houses showed very little increase during the interval between 1931 and 1936. In urban Manitoba the number rose from 50,559 in 1931 to 51,396 in 1936. The urban localities of Saskatchewan recorded an increase from 57,789 in 1931 to 58,923 in 1936, while the urban areas of Alberta showed a more marked gain from 55,347 in 1931 to 58,360 in 1936, or about five per cent.

It is interesting to note that 90 per cent of all single dwelling houses in urban Manitoba are found in urban areas of 1,000 population and over, whereas in urban Saskatchewan and Alberta the percentages in urban areas of 1,000 population and more are 58 and 77, respectively. Approximately 75 per cent of the single houses in urban localities of Manitoba, 40 per cent in urban Saskatchewan and 58 per cent in urban Alberta are found in localities of 10,000 population and over.

According to the census a single dwelling house counts as one dwelling. Adding the occupied dwellings in apartments, rows, flats and semi-detached houses to the single dwellings gives a total of 67,175 occupied dwellings in urban Manitoba at the 1936 census; the corresponding totals for urban localities in Saskatchewan and Alberta were 66,305 and 69,283, respectively.

The number of urban households in Manitoba in 1936 was 75,364, in Saskatchewan 68,711, and in Alberta 73,569, or about seven per cent more households than occupied dwellings in the three provinces combined. Rural households numbered 85,690 in Manitoba, 139,057 in Saskatchewan and 112,156 in Alberta at the 1936 census.

It is significant that the number of householders in the Prairie Provinces owning their own homes declined over the period 1931 to 1936, the decline taking place mainly in the urban areas. The number living in owned homes in urban localities of Manitoba was 35,147 in 1931 while in 1936 the number was 32,726. In Saskatchewan home owners in urban localities decreased from 36,744 in 1931 to 32,810 in 1936, while in Alberta the decrease was from 36,021 to 34,519.

On the other hand, householders living in rented dwellings showed a corresponding increase. The number of tenent householders in urban areas of each of the Prairie Provinces in 1936 was: Manitoba, 42,230, Saskatchewan 35,288 and Alberta 38,368.

With respect to rent of dwellings it is noteworthy that 45 per cent of the tenants living in urban parts of the three provinces paid less than \$15 rent per month. The percentages paying less than \$15 per month were: Manitoba, 35; Saskatchewan, 56; and Alberta, 43. This rental group included practically all relief households living in rented homes. In each province between 25 p.c. and 30 p.c. of the tenants paid between \$15 and \$24 per month.

About one-fifth of the tenants in urban localities of these provinces paid a monthly rent ranging between \$25 and \$40 per month, while just over 10 p.c. in Manitoba and just under 5 p.c. in Alberta and Saskatchewan paid \$40 or more. Most of the tenants in Manitoba who paid \$40 or more in rent resided in the city of Winnipeg.

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## April Production of Gypsum

The Canadian production of gypsum in April reached a total of 49,579 tons compared with 6,903 in the previous month and 65,708 in April last year. Output during the four months ended April totalled 68,158 tons compared with 102,360 in the corresponding period of 1937.

Exports of crude gypsum from Canada amounted to 36,050 tons in April; in the previous month none was exported. One hundred and nine tons of plaster of Paris were shipped from Canada in April compared with 126 in March.

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### Primary Movement of Wheat

Wheat marketings in the Prairie Provinces for the week ending June 17 amounted to 806,445 bushels compared with 743,591 in the previous week and 701,993 in the corresponding week last year. Total marketings from August 1 to June 17 were 120,758,132 bushels compared with 161,202,216 in the same period of the previous crop year.

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### Overseas Export Clearances of Wheat

Overseas export clearances of wheat during the week ending June 17 amounted to 1,812,158 bushels while imports into the United States for consumption and milling in bond were 9,000 bushels. In the previous week the clearances totalled 1,131,485 bushels and United States imports, 10,000 bushels. During the week of June 18, 1937, overseas clearances amounted to 2,906,603 bushels and imports into the United States 412,000.

Total clearances during the period August 1 - June 17 were 69,067,127 bushels, while imports into the United States were 2,112,249 bushels. In the corresponding period last year there were 133,664,706 bushels clearances and 41,022,803 bushels imported into the United States.

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### May Building Permits

The value of the building authorized by 58 cities during May was higher than in any May since 1931, recording an increase of 21.4 per cent over May, 1937. The advance over the previous month was 34.8 per cent. The authorizations in May aggregated \$6,576,296 compared with \$4,879,867 in April and \$5,416,299 in May last year.

During the five months ended May, authorizations amounted to \$19,220,788; this was lower than the aggregate of \$22,050,984 reported in the period January - May, 1937, but was higher than in the corresponding period of 1936. The cumulative total for the same period in each of the last seven years has been much lower than in earlier years of the record.

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### Retail 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, declined slightly from 84.3 in April to 84.2 in May, easier prices for foods being partially offset by an increase in rental levels. Retail prices, including foods, coal, coke, clothing, household requirements, tobacco, etc., fell from 79.7 to 79.1.

An index for 46 food items fell from 78.8 to 77.7, reductions for eggs, butter and potatoes influencing the group more than gains for meats and tea. Seasonal declines in prices of coal and coke caused the fuel index to recede from 86.2 to 85.9. The rent index advanced to 90.3 to 89.0.

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### Index Numbers of Manufactured and Natural Fuel Gas used for Domestic Purposes

Index number of prices for manufactured fuel gas used by domestic consumers in Canada rose from 93.6 to 94.5 in 1937, marking the first break in a gradual decline dating from 1921. For that year the index was 109.4. The corresponding index of natural gas consumed as a domestic fuel was 92.3 in both 1936 and 1937. Apart from moderate reactions in 1923 and 1924 a fairly steady advance in natural gas rates took place between 1913 and 1925, but subsequently the index declined until 1930. The tendency in 1931 and 1932 was again upward, after which declines persisted between 1933 and 1936.

Fuel prices generally have displayed a moderate but persistent downward movement dating from 1921. The percentage of decrease in that interval has been roughly 22 per cent, with principal fuels showing individual declines as indicated: coal, 22 per cent; wood, 30; gas, 31; and electricity 7. Consumers' costs for manufactured gas averaged lower for 1937 in British Columbia, but were higher for Ontario and unchanged in the Maritimes, Quebec and the Prairies.

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### Births, Deaths and Marriages

A preliminary statement released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics shows that there were 219,339 live births in Canada during 1937, giving an equivalent annual rate of 19.7 per 1,000 population, as compared with 220,371 births and a rate of 20.0 for 1936. There were 8,448 illegitimate births, or 3.9 per cent of all live births compared with 8,633 and the same percentage of the total in 1936. Stillbirths numbered 6,245 compared with 6,350; the percentage of the total stood at 2.8 for both years.

The number of deaths occurring during the year was 113,510 compared with 107,050 in 1936, the rate per 1,000 population standing at 10.2 against 9.7. The natural increase in Canada's population during the year was 105,829 compared with 113,321 in 1936, the rate declining to 9.5 per thousand from 10.3. Deaths under one year increased to 16,650 from 14,574, and those under one month to 7,507 from 7,393. Maternal deaths declined to 1,060 from 1,233. Marriages increased to 87,715 from 80,904.

### Reports Issued During the Week

1. Births, Deaths and Marriages in the Fourth Quarter of 1937 (10 cents).
2. Production of Asphalt Roofing, May (10 cents).
3. Sales of Asphalt Roofing, May (10 cents).
4. Prices and Price Indexes, May (10 cents).
5. Building Permits, May (10 cents).
6. Buildings, Dwellings, Households and Rent by Size of Dwelling - Prairie Provinces, 1936 (Census, 25 cents).
7. Car Loadings (10 cents).
8. Telegraphic Crop Report, Canada (10 cents).
9. Production of Iron and Steel, May (10 cents).
10. Trade of Canada, May (10 cents).
11. Index Numbers of Manufactured and Natural Gas Used for Domestic Purposes, 1913 - 1937 (10 cents).
12. Index Numbers of Wholesale Prices (10 cents).
13. Fruit and Vegetable Crop Report (10 cents).
14. Rigid Insulating Board Industry, May (10 cents).
15. Monthly Traffic Report of Railways, March (10 cents).
16. Output of Central Electric Stations, May (10 cents).
17. Canadian Grain Statistics (10 cents).
18. Production of Concentrated Milk, May (10 cents).
19. Financing of Motor Vehicle Sales, May (10 cents).
20. Exports of Milk, Milk Products and Eggs, May (10 cents).
21. Gypsum Production, April (10 cents).
22. Size Factor in One-Room Schools (15 cents).
23. Index Numbers of Railway Freight Rates, 1913 - 1936 (25 cents).
24. Summary of Domestic Exports, May (10 cents).
25. Index Numbers of Security Prices and Foreign Exchange (10 cents).
26. Summary of Canal Traffic, May (10 cents).
27. Quarterly Report of the Trade of Canada, March 1938 (50 cents).



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