

WEEKLY BULLETIN

Dominion Bureau of Statistics

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Weekly Quotation

"Godlike Nature has given us the fields, human art has built the cities."

- Latin Proverb (Varro).

Weekly Review of Economic Conditions

Six important factors indicating the trend of economic conditions averaged lower in the week of December 10 than in the preceding week, but recorded a slight gain over the same week of 1937. Carloadings and capitalized bond yields rose to a higher position than in the preceding week. Minor declines were shown in wholesale prices, common stocks and speculative trading, while the adjusted index of bank clearings showed marked decline. Common stock prices and capitalized bond yields were higher than in the same week of 1937, while other factors occupied a lower position.

The railway freight movement recorded a decline of 183,000 cars during the first forty-eight weeks of the present year. The gain in grain traffic was nearly 74,000 cars and increases in ore and pulpwood amounted to 17,842 cars and 4,778 cars, respectively. Declines were shown in each of the other groups of the official classification, the drop in the movement of miscellaneous freight being more than 88,000 cars.

The recession in newsprint production was slightly greater in November than normal for the season. The output was 245,295 tons against 254,872 tons in October, the index after seasonal adjustment receding three points to 149.6. The production during the first eleven months of the present year was 939,578 tons, a decline of 28 p.c. from the same period of 1937. The stocks held by Canadian and United States mills were 197,859 tons at the end of November against 214,873 tons on October 31. Sugar manufactures amounted to 158.5 million pounds against 96.6 million in the preceding four-week period. The adjusted index consequently advanced from 93 to 123. Gains were recorded in cheese and butter production after seasonal adjustment. The index of factory cheese increased from 65.3 in October to 84.1 in November, while the gain in the index of creamery butter from 152.4 to 154.1.

A minor recession was shown in the index of wholesale prices for the week ended December 9, the standing having been 73.3 against 73.4 in the preceding week. The sub-index for crop products recorded a minor gain while other principal groups either showed decline or were without change. Grains were somewhat stronger on the Winnipeg exchange, No. 1 Northern wheat advancing from 59 5/8 to 61 1/8. Electrolytic copper was £48 10s on December 13 against £48 on the 6th. A gain was also shown in tin and zinc while lead was at a lower position. Export copper at New York was 10.30 against 10.21, but a decline was shown in tin and lead.

Dominion bond prices recorded a further gain in the week ended December 8, the average yield falling from 3.00 to 2.99. The 3's of 1950-55 advanced from 99 1/8 on December 6 to 99 1/4 on December 13. Following the reaction in the latter part of September, bonds have recovered and are at the present at a higher level than in the same week of any year during the period of observation.

Common stock prices have shown minor reaction following the temporary high level reached in November. The index receded from 107.5 in the week of December 1 to 106.3 in the week of the 8th. Five of the nine industrial groups recorded advance, the index of fifteen power and traction stocks dropping from 61.0 to 60.2.

The weekly index based on six factors dropped from 106.1 in the week of December 3 to 104.6 in the week under review, a decline of 1.5 p.c. The gain over the same week of 1937 was 0.4 p.c., the standing at that time having been 104.2.

Weekly Index with the Six Components

1926=100

Week Ended	Car loadings ¹	Wholesale Prices	Capitalized Bond Yields ²	Bank Clearings ³	Prices of Common Stocks	Shares Traded	Weekly Index ⁴
Dec. 11, 1937	72.4	82.7	147.5	84.6	103.9	126.8	104.2
Dec. 3, 1938	66.6	73.4	162.1	90.6	107.5	96.0	106.1
Dec. 10, 1938	68.3	73.3	162.3	79.2	106.3	93.0	104.6

1. The index of carloadings is projected forward one week to correspond with the practice in computing the weekly 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.

Domestic Exports in November

Canada's domestic exports in November were valued at \$93,223,000 compared with \$101,636,000 in October and \$106,663,000 in November, 1937. The value of re-exported foreign produce totalled \$851,000 compared with \$1,085,000 in the previous month and \$1,155,000 a year ago. Included in the total of domestic exports were exports of non-monetary gold bullion to the value of \$6,576,000 compared with \$12,737,000 in October and \$5,328,000 in November, 1937.

Other leading exports during the month were as follows, with figures for November 1937 in brackets: wheat, \$12,727,305 (\$17,900,740), newsprint \$10,838,543 (\$11,572,240), unmanufactured nickel \$5,646,887 (\$5,834,524), partially manufactured copper \$5,673,318 (\$5,679,286), meats \$3,477,319 (\$3,635,790), planks and boards \$3,475,130 (\$3,739,996), fish \$2,872,224 (\$2,992,916), wood pulp \$2,493,187 (\$3,328,553), cheese \$1,801,104 (\$2,158,655), wheat flour \$1,560,868 (\$2,431,046), automobiles and parts \$1,242,907 (\$1,370,358), furs \$474,952 (\$387,837).

The value of Canada's domestic exports during the eight months ended November totalled \$638,562,000 compared with \$787,150,000 in the corresponding period of the previous fiscal year. Exports of foreign produce totalled \$39,384,000 compared with \$10,858,000. Shipments of non-monetary gold bullion totalled \$67,659,000 compared with \$84,318,000 in the eight months of the previous fiscal year.

Other chief exports during the eight months were as follows: newsprint \$74,098,506 (\$87,293,623), wheat \$63,281,585 (\$91,053,940), copper, partially manufactured \$36,079,766 (\$40,550,028), unmanufactured nickel \$32,483,448 (\$39,664,763), planks and boards \$24,671,464 (\$32,655,008), meats \$23,723,234 (\$28,127,317), wood pulp \$17,955,984 (\$29,160,291), fish \$17,481,462 (\$18,392,753), automobiles and parts \$14,029,371 (\$18,069,820), wheat flour \$11,450,398 (\$16,225,684), cheese \$10,503,931 (\$12,246,079), furs \$4,795,942 (\$6,266,495).

November Export of Wheat

The November export of wheat was 21,703,514 bushels valued at \$12,727,305, compared with 14,542,227 at \$17,900,740 in November, 1937. The export price in November was 58.6 cents per bushel as against \$1.23 a year ago. During the first eight months of the current fiscal year the export was 84,675,536 bushels at \$63,281,585 compared with 69,472,423 at \$91,053,940 in the corresponding eight months of 1937.

November Export of Wheat Flour

The November export of wheat flour was 477,875 barrels valued at \$1,560,868 as against 405,921 barrels at \$2,431,046 a year ago. The average export price per barrel in November was \$3.27 as against \$5.99 last year. During the eight months ended November the export was 2,676,802 barrels at \$11,450,398 as against 2,697,211 at \$16,225,684 in the same period last year.

November Export of Coarse Grains

The November export of barley, oats and rye was higher. Barley exports totalled 3,405,910 bushels valued at \$1,397,794 compared with 2,232,056 worth \$1,542,301 in November, 1937. The amount to the United Kingdom was 2,476,117 bushels. Heavier purchases of oats by the United Kingdom accounted largely for the increase in November shipments which totalled 1,128,349 bushels valued at \$342,093 compared with 811,906 at

\$422,638 last year. Rye exports amounted to 254,319 bushels valued at \$111,690 compared with 51,206 at \$42,969 a year ago.

Sales and Purchases of Securities
Between Canada and Other Countries

The value of Canada's international security trade in October was \$73,678,000 compared with \$54,628,000 in the previous month and \$77,216,000 in the corresponding month last year. The gain over the previous month was almost 35 per cent. Sales to all countries totalled \$36,717,000 compared with \$31,146,000 in the previous month and \$35,950,000 in October, 1937. Purchases totalled \$36,961,000 compared with \$23,482,000 in September and \$41,266,000 a year ago.

Sales of securities to the United States in October totalled \$26,676,770 compared with \$24,819,925 in the previous month and \$27,189,306 in October, 1937. Purchases from the United States amounted to \$30,099,124 compared with \$19,375,773 in September and \$34,227,191 in October, 1937. Sales to the United Kingdom aggregated \$6,581,350 in October against \$3,794,997 in September and \$7,099,205 in October, 1937. United Kingdom purchases totalled \$5,827,109 compared with \$3,272,801 in September and \$5,967,950 in October last year.

During the first ten months of 1938 the volume of Canada's international trade in securities exceeded \$568,000,000 compared with more than \$880,000,000 for ten months of 1937, and over \$600,000,000 to the end of October, 1936. The net inflow of capital resulting from security transactions exceeded \$34,000,000 for the ten months of 1938 compared with an outflow of nearly \$11,000,000 for the similar period of 1937 and an inflow of less than \$1,000,000 during the ten months of 1936.

October Production of Crude Petroleum

The Canadian output of crude petroleum and natural gasoline in October amounted to 685,088 barrels compared with 886,111 in the previous month and 342,557 in the corresponding month last year. The October output of Alberta fields totalled 667,454 barrels, made up of 663,578 from the Turner Valley field, 1,107 from Red Coulee, 1,101 from Wainwright-Ribstone, 1,268 from the Taber and 400 from Moose-Dome. Total Canadian output during the ten months ended October was 6,001,662 barrels compared with 2,245,725 in the corresponding period last year.

Copper and Nickel Production

Canadian copper production in October amounted to 49,356,139 pounds compared with 50,238,306 in the previous month and 51,915,082 in October, 1937. An increase of 14.1 per cent was recorded in the output during the first ten months of 1938 compared with the same period last year, the total being 490,572,600 pounds compared with 430,012,972.

Nickel output in Canada during October was 16,101,779 pounds compared with 16,914,931 in September and 18,495,529 in October last year. Production during the ten months ended October totalled 175,964,854 pounds compared with 185,467,649 in the corresponding period last year.

Artificial Abrasives Industry

The value of all products made by the artificial abrasives manufacturers during 1937 was 33 per cent greater than in 1936 and higher than in any other year on record. The gross factory value for the industry was \$14,174,351 compared with \$10,631,533 in 1936 and \$13,851,785 in 1935. In 1929 the value was \$8,961,951.

Output of Sand-Lime Brick

Output of sand-lime brick in 1937 by five factories was reported at 11,363,000 valued at \$125,880 at factory prices, a slight decline in quantity but an increase in value when compared with the 1936 production of 11,456,000 at \$119,707. Production of sand-lime building blocks increased to 851,000 at \$67,091 from 573,000 at \$55,411 in 1936.

Wheat Stocks in Store

Canadian wheat in storé for the week ending December 9 amounted to 170,927,818 bushels compared with 170,655,019 in the previous week and 61,463,193 in the corresponding week last year. The amount of Canadian wheat in the United States was 8,601,000 bushels compared with 8,280,000 the week before and 5,066,000 a year ago. Wheat in rail transit aggregated 6,915,531 bushels compared with 3,135,607 a year ago, and in transit on the lakes 332,354 bushels compared with 1,007,045.

Primary Movement of Wheat

Wheat receipts in the Prairie Provinces during the week ended December 9 totalled 2,402,489 bushels compared with 3,214,082 in the previous week and 1,160,640 in the corresponding week last year. The totals follow by provinces, with those for the previous week in brackets: Manitoba 220,296 (145,128) bushels, Saskatchewan 1,074,060 (203,120), Alberta 1,108,133 (812,392).

Marketings for the nineteen weeks ended December 9 aggregated 248,332,502 bushels compared with 94,842,781 in the corresponding period of 1937. The totals follow by provinces: Manitoba 40,700,814 (31,964,385) bushels, Saskatchewan 98,926,997 (19,852,924), Alberta 108,704,691 (43,025,472).

Overseas Export Clearances of Wheat

Overseas export clearances of wheat during the week ended December 9 totalled 1,389,223 bushels compared with 1,253,752 in the corresponding week last year, while imports of Canadian wheat into the United States for consumption and milling in bond for re-export were 119,000 bushels compared with 3,000. The clearances follow by ports, with totals for 1937 in brackets: Vancouver-New Westminster 1,141,022 (380,187) bushels, Montreal 158,019 (nil), United States Ports 90,182 (359,721), Saint John nil (477,341), Sorel nil (36,503).

Clearances during the period August 1-December 9 aggregated 64,496,319 bushels compared with 37,484,588 bushels in the corresponding period of 1937, while imports into the United States were 3,321,617 bushels compared with 1,860,839. Clearances were as follows: Montreal 31,176,578 (22,532,994) bushels, Vancouver-New Westminster 11,622,470 (3,673,879), Sorel 9,414,308 (2,476,039), Three Rivers 6,022,221 (420,811), United States Ports 5,231,764 (6,959,271), Churchill 916,913 (603,982), Fort William and Port Arthur 112,066 (114,375), Saint John nil (703,237).

Department Store Sales in November

The adjusted index number of sales of Canadian department stores reached a new high in November for the current year, standing at 79.3. This is the third consecutive month in which an increase has been shown. In October the index was 77.3 and in November last year 79.9. The unadjusted index, on the base 1930=100 was 21.2 in November compared with 87.9 in October and 91.9 in November, 1937.

Wholesale Trade in 1937

Sales of wholesale trading houses recorded a greater annual increase in 1937 than in any year since the beginning of the upswing in 1933. Sales of all kinds of business combined amounted to \$1,352,212,000, an increase of 14.4 per cent over 1936 when sales were \$1,181,543,000. Wholesale sales for 1937 are within two per cent of the amount reported for the Decennial Census of 1930, which year has been used as a basis for all subsequent indexes. Sales indexes for Canada reached 98.7 as against 86.2 for 1936, 78.9 for 1935, 74.7 for 1934, 65.7 for 1933, 68.7 for 1932 and 81.6 for 1931.

In continuation of the steady recovery in evidence since 1933, all groups averaged higher in 1937 than in the preceding year. Farm supplies registered the best improvement with a gain of 42.7 per cent, this large recovery being due to the increase in sales by seed wholesalers in the export field.

Production of Butter and Cheese

The November production of creamery butter increased approximately 11 per cent over November, 1937, but decreased 37 per cent from the output in October. The total was 14,676,447 pounds compared with 23,454,669 in October and 13,263,918 in November, 1937. Output during the eleven months ended November increased 8.2 per cent, amounting to 256,016,210 pounds compared with 236,563,780 in the corresponding period of the previous year.

Cheese production in November increased 50 per cent over 1937 but decreased 56 per cent from the previous month, totalling 6,592,588 pounds compared with 15,098,036 in October and 4,396,221 in November, 1937. The total output during the eleven months ended November was 118,370,162 pounds compared with 127,323,578 in the eleven months of 1937.

Motion Pictures in 1937

There was a total attendance of 134,374,061 and box office receipts of \$32,499,300 at motion picture theatres in 1937. This was exclusive of amusement taxes and collections of itinerant operators, thus recording a substantial increase both in receipts and admissions for the fourth consecutive year. These figures compared with those for 1936 show increases of 9.8 per cent in receipts and 5.4 per cent in admissions. The difference in these percentage increases indicates a slight rise in the average price of admission from 23.2 cents in 1936 to 24.2 cents in 1937.

The number of permanently equipped theatres in operation was 1,047, up by 88 from 1936, this increase being due partly to new construction but largely to new permanent installations made in public halls in the Western Provinces. There were 5,294 male and 1,656 female employees in Canadian theatres during the year. The total payroll was \$5,627,300, an increase of \$698,600 over 1936. In addition to the theatres, 39 itinerant operators were reported as having receipts of \$78,300 for 408,813 paid admissions to their travelling shows.

The per capita expenditure on motion picture theatres has shown a gradual increase since 1933 when it averaged \$2.33 per person. This advanced to \$2.36 in 1934, \$2.50 in 1935, \$2.70 in 1936 and \$2.93 in 1937. British Columbia continues to have the highest per capita expenditure with \$4.82, followed by Ontario with \$3.90, Manitoba \$3.07, Alberta \$2.44, Nova Scotia \$2.41, Quebec \$2.15, New Brunswick \$1.86, Saskatchewan \$1.48 and Prince Edward Island \$1.23.

Honey Crop in 1938

The 1938 honey crop in Canada was the largest on record. Total production was approximately 34,000,000 pounds, which is 12,000,000 or 56 per cent more than the short crop of 1937. It also exceeds the average production of the five years 1933-1937 by 10,000,000 pounds, and the previous record crop of 1931 by 4,000,000 pounds. Weather conditions were favourable and the crop was generally of good quality. Ontario was the highest producer with close to 13,000,000 pounds, Manitoba coming second with over 9½ million.

Canal Traffic in November

Total freight traffic through the Welland Ship Canal in November amounted to 1,651,241 tons, which was the heaviest November traffic on record. A year ago the traffic was 1,229,350 tons. Corn, wheat, iron and steel and soft coal all showed substantial increases over last year, especially wheat which was up by 278,184 tons or 9,272,800 bushels. Without the December traffic, a new record for a year has been established at 12,449,543 tons. Last year the total for the season was 11,747,950 tons.

Due mainly to heavy wheat shipments, total freight using the St. Lawrence canals increased in November to 1,064,788 tons from 989,456 tons last year, while the November traffic through the Sault Ste. Marie Canals (Canadian and United States Locks) increased to 4,466,103 tons from 3,938,979 in 1937.

Railway Traffic Report for September

Revenue freight loaded at Canadian stations and received from foreign connections during September amounted to 7,799,284 tons, a decrease of 396,867 tons from the total last year. Wheat showed an increase of 929,466 tons, or 82 per cent, especially heavy

loadings being recorded in Saskatchewan and Alberta, and the total for Agricultural products was up 862,295, but all other groups recorded substantial decreases.

Railway Rolling Stock Industry

Production from the Railway Rolling Stock Industry during 1937 was valued at \$93,854,555, an increase of 64.7 per cent over the 1936 value of \$56,969,453 which in turn was 38 per cent greater than the \$41,213,039 reported for 1935. The 1937 value was the highest since 1930.

Included in this industry are those factories which are engaged chiefly in the making or repairing of railway cars and locomotives, or in making car and locomotive parts such as wheels, tires, brakes, springs, etc. In 1937, as in the next preceding year, there were 37 plants in this category, including 15 in Ontario, 11 in Quebec, four in Manitoba, three in Nova Scotia, three in Alberta, and one in New Brunswick.

Employees averaged 21,496 in number for the year and salaries and wages totalled \$29,187,157, compared with 18,633 employees and \$22,161,277 for salaries and wages in 1936. Plants in Quebec gave work to an average of 9,531 people, in Manitoba to 4,514, in Ontario to 4,173, in Alberta to 1,393 and in the Maritimes to 1,885 persons.

Bridge Building and Structural Steel Industry

The value of work done by concerns in the bridge building and structural steel work industry in 1937 amounted to \$16,850,324 compared with \$11,913,918 in 1936, \$7,597,599 in 1935 and \$26,055,783 in 1930.

Paper Box and Bag Industry in 1937

There were 147 plants reported in the paper box and bag industry in 1937 as compared with 141 in 1936, the industry being largely in Ontario and Quebec. A number of firms classified in other industrial groups make paper boxes and bags as a side line. Production in 1937 was valued at \$30,035,299 as compared with \$25,588,431 in 1936. Corrugated boxes at \$10,002,533 headed the list of products, folding boxes coming second with \$6,133,010.

Fertilizer Manufacturing Industry in 1937

Production by plants in Canada engaged principally in the manufacture of fertilizers was valued at \$10,266,953 in 1937, an improvement of 45 per cent over the total of \$7,075,831 reported for 1936. In addition, there was a production of 255,549 tons of fertilizer materials valued at \$5,745,806 in 1937 and 198,848 tons at \$4,299,732 in 1936, by establishments which were classified to other industrial groups.

Vital Statistics in England and Wales

There were 158,228 live births registered in England and Wales in the third quarter of 1938; this is 362 less than the number recorded in the corresponding quarter of 1937 and corresponds to an annual rate of 15.3 per thousand of the population. Although the number registered is slightly less than that of the corresponding quarter of last year, it is more than 5,000 above the average figure (152,893) for the third quarters of the preceding five years.

Deaths, exclusive of still births, registered numbered 102,602 and were 16,575 less than in the preceding quarter but 2,301 more than in the corresponding quarter of 1937.

The natural increase of population by excess of births over deaths was 55,626 as against natural increases of 55,432 in 1935, 55,661 in 1936 and 58,289 in 1937.

The number of persons married in the third quarter of 1938 was 232,432, a decrease of 10,410 on the number in the corresponding period of 1937.

Northern Ireland Vital Statistics

The population of Northern Ireland was estimated at 1,285,000 on June 30. There were 6,515 births registered during the quarter ended September 30, which is equivalent to an annual rate of 20.3 per thousand. This rate is 0.2 above the corresponding quarter of 1937 and 0.1 below the average rate for the third quarters of the last ten years. The number of marriages was 2,602 at an annual rate of 8.1 per thousand. This rate is 0.2 below the rate for the corresponding quarter of 1937 and 0.6 above the average rate for the third quarters of the last ten years.

Deaths registered during the quarter numbered 3,799, equivalent to an annual rate of 11.8 per thousand, the rate being 0.5 above 1937 and 0.3 above the average rate for the third quarters of the last ten years.

Vital Statistics in Eire

Births registered in Eire during the third quarter of 1938 numbered 14,715, being equivalent to an annual rate of 20.0 per thousand of the population; the number of deaths registered 8,618, representing an annual rate of 11.7 per thousand. The number of marriages registered during the quarter was 4,377, which gives a rate of 6.0 per thousand.

Scottish Vital Statistics

Births registered in Scotland during the third quarter of 1938 numbered 21,417, the rate per thousand of population being 17.0, or 2.3 below the previous quarter. Compared with the five years' average the number of births is 25 less and the rate 0.2 below the average. It is the lowest birth-rate hitherto recorded in Scotland for the third quarter of any year. There were 11,902 marriages registered, which is 2,477 above that for the previous quarter. The rate per thousand of population was 9.5, which is 1.9 higher than the previous quarter. The number is 860 more than the five years' average, while the rate is 0.6 above the average. It is the highest rate recorded for any quarter since the institution of national registration in Scotland in 1855, with the exception of the abnormal rates prevailing during the post-war years 1919 and 1920.

Deaths registered numbered 13,804, equalling a rate of 11.0 per thousand population. The number and the rate are 369 and 0.2 respectively above the five years' average of that quarter.

Reports Issued During the Week

1. Car Loadings (10 cents).
2. Sand-Lime Brick Industry, 1937 (10 cents).
3. Monthly Review of Dairy Production, November (10 cents).
4. The Railway Rolling Stock Industry, 1937 (10 cents).
5. Motion Picture Theatres, 1937 (25 cents).
6. First Estimate of Value of Field Crops, Canada (10 cents).
7. Monthly Traffic Report of Railways, September (10 cents).
8. The Artificial Abrasives Industry, Canada, 1937 (15 cents).
9. The Paper Box and Bag Industry, 1937 (15 cents).
10. Wholesale Trade in Canada, 1937 (10 cents).
11. Security Prices and Foreign Exchange (10 cents).
12. Cold Storage Holdings of Dairy and Poultry Products, December 1 (10 cents).
13. Cold Storage Holdings of Meat and Fish, December 1 (10 cents).
14. Stocks of Canadian Fruits and Vegetables, December 1 (10 cents).
15. The Grain Situation in Argentina (10 cents).
16. Weekly Index Numbers of Wholesale Prices (10 cents).
17. Petroleum and Natural Gas Production, October; Gasoline Sales, September (10 cents).
18. Summary of Exports of Grains and Flour, November (10 cents).
19. Imports of Vehicles of Iron, October (10 cents).
20. Sales and Purchases of Securities Between Canada and Other Countries, Oct. (10 cents).
21. Preliminary Report on Department Store Sales, November (10 cents).
22. Copper and Nickel Production, October (10 cents).
23. The Canadian Balance of International Payments (25 cents).
24. The Bridge Building and Structural Steel Work Industry, 1937 (10 cents).
25. Special Bulletin on Consumption of Supplies by Base Metal Mining, Smelting and Refining Industries, 1937 (10 cents).
26. Corset Industry in Canada, 1937 (15 cents).
27. The Fertilizer Manufacturing Industry in Canada, 1937 (10 cents).
28. Summary of Canal Traffic, November, 1938 (10 cents).
29. Canadian Grain Statistics (10 cents).
30. The Honey Crop, 1938 (10 cents).



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