

## WEEKLY BULLETIN

Dominion Bureau of Statistics

Department of Trade and Commerce

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### Industrial Production Records an Excellent Improvement in 1933

The year 1933 will be remembered as a period of recovery, the lowest point of the depression to date having been reached in the second month of the year. The index of industrial production maintained by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics was 83.9 in November compared with 60.9 in February, the gain in the intervening period having been nearly 38 p.c. Despite the lower level in the early months of the year, the index of industrial production averaged somewhat higher in 1933 than in the preceding twelve months. The level of productive operations in the last month for which statistics are available, were about 17 p.c. greater than in November 1932. The index of industrial production is computed from forty-one factors indicating the trend in mineral production, manufacturing, construction and electric power, adjustment being made for the seasonal tendencies of each factor and the results expressed as a percentage of the levels of 1926.

The total value of production in the mining industry was estimated at \$198,253,000 compared with \$182,682,000 in the preceding year, a gain of 8.5 p.c. The total for 1933 would be increased by \$23,378,000 providing gold were valued at Canadian currency prices. Marked gains were recorded in base metals especially nickel, copper, lead and zinc, while silver and gold the latter valued at the standard rate of \$20.67 per ounce showed a slight decline. Metals as a group at \$124,382,000 showed a gain of 20 p.c. over the preceding year, and non-metallic minerals such as asbestos, feldspar and salt, increased 28 p.c. to \$9,898,000. Fuels including coal, natural gas and crude petroleum declined 3.5 p.c., a much larger drop being shown in clay products and structural materials. The revival in mining operations in 1933 marked the reversal of the downward trend apparent since 1929 when the volume and value of mineral production reached the highest point in history.

Nickel production totalled 84,586,000 pounds valued at \$20,736,000 as against 30,328,000 pounds valued at \$7,178,000 in 1932. Despite the low level of production in the early months of the year, the output was only exceeded in four other years during the history of the industry and copper production showed a gain of 22 p.c. in quantity and 42 p.c. in value over the previous year. The average price for copper was 7.437 cents as against 6.380 in 1932.

Lead production at 269,000,000 pounds increased 5 p.c. in quantity and 19 p.c. in value. The average price for the year was computed as 2.39756 cents per pound. The output of zinc showed a gain of 16 p.c., the value increase being 55 p.c.

The value of gold produced in Canada amounted to \$84,258,000 in Canadian dollars, the average price during the year being computed at \$28.61 per fine ounce. The advance in the price of gold in terms of Canadian currency has been an incentive toward the development of new properties and the enlargement of the existing ore bodies of the older and regular producers. The large return in Canadian money for gold had a very beneficial effect on other Canadian industries, which supply the many commodities required for the search, development and production of the yellow metal.

While the output of silver showed a decline of 16 p.c., the value, owing to the higher level of prices, was practically maintained. The principal source of silver production was the Sullivan mine in British Columbia, where the metal occurs in association with lead and zinc. Other producers included the O'Brien Mine of Cobalt, the Miller Lake O'Brien of Gowganda, the Treadwell Yukon mine in the Mayo district of the Yukon and the Eldorado mine of the Great Bear Lake area. The price of silver averaged 42.947 cents per ounce in the first two weeks of December compared with 29.0449 cents in January.

The official index of manufacturing production averaged 79.1 during the first eleven months of 1933, compared with 74.0 in the preceding year. The increase from February, the low point of the year to November was about 47 p.c., each of the 29 factors upon which the index is based being adjusted for seasonal tendencies. Gains over the second month were general in most of the components of the manufacturing index, the declines being limited to three factors. The decline in productive operations which had been fairly continuous for more than three years continued in January and February. An unbroken advance then took place until September when the greatest activity of the year occurred.

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The trend in the textile industry may be appraised by the imports of raw materials for further manufacture in Canadian plants. Imports of raw cotton amounted to 99,894,000 pounds compared with 83,535,000 a gain of 19.6 p.c. Imports in November were 19,058,000 pounds, the highest total since January 1928. The imports of cotton yarn and wool for further manufacture also made a good showing in 1933, recording considerable gain over the preceding year.

Operations in the forestry group moved up sharply in May, the highest point of the year being reached in mid-summer. The index was 87.2 in November compared with 59.8 in February and 65.8 in November 1932. The index of operations in the wood and paper industries averaged about 13 p.c. greater in 1933 than in the preceding year. The output of newsprint was at a higher level from June to November 1933 than in the corresponding months of the preceding year. Exports of wood pulp in the first eleven months showed a gain of nearly 34 p.c., over the same period of 1932. Exports of planks and boards were 918,444,000 feet compared with 636,544,000 in the first eleven months of the preceding year. British Columbia during 1933 broke all records for overseas business. Shipments of forest products from British Columbia showed an advance of more than 40 p.c. over the corresponding period of 1932, and exports to Great Britain recorded a gain of more than 100 p.c.

Moderate recovery was observable in the iron and steel industry. Steel production in the first eleven months was 358,424 long tons compared with 311,986, a gain of about 15 p.c. Owing to the higher level in the latter part of the year, the gain in pig iron production was no less than 62.7 p.c. over the low level of 1932. Automobile production was 62,662 units compared with 58,677 in the same period of the preceding year.

No new water power developments were initiated during 1933. Several plants under construction at the beginning of the year were completed, new installations amounting to 270,210 horse power. The resulting total for the Dominion at the end of 1933 was 7,332,000 horse power. The increase in installations during 1933 was due chiefly to the completion of the Masson development of the McLaren Quebec power Co. on the Lievre River in Quebec, and the bringing into operation of the initial installation of the Canyon development on the Abitibi River in Ontario by the Hydro Electric Power Commission. Other small installations were completed in British Columbia.

After seasonal adjustments the maximum of electric power output was reached in August, but the production of 1,702,558,000 k.w.h. in November was greater than in any preceding month in the history of the Industry. The total output in the first eleven months of 1933 was 15,845,403,000 k.w.h. compared with 14,429,795,000 in the same period of 1932, a gain of 9.8 p.c.

The economic index prepared for the purposes of this statement was 81.7 in the week ended December 30, compared with 82.5 in the preceding week. Bond prices and bank clearings showed gains, the common stock index was maintained, while carloadings, wholesale prices and speculative stock trading showed decline.

The economic index, at 81.7 compared with 71.8 in the corresponding week of 1932, showed a gain of nearly 14 p.c. Each of the six factors showed gains in this comparison. The gain in the eastern freight movement was 19.4 p.c. and wholesale prices showed a marked advance over the same week of 1932. The index of Dominion government bond prices recorded a gain of 5.3 p.c. Bank clearings were more than maintained while the index of common stock prices was 65.6 compared with 47.0, a gain of 39.6 p.c. Speculative trading on the Montreal and Toronto stock exchanges was much greater than in the inactive period at the end of 1932.

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### Car Loadings

Car loadings for the week ended December 30 decreased from 35,623 cars for the previous week to 29,360 cars, but the index number rose from 61.77 to 64.04. Compared with loadings for the last week in 1932 the total was larger by 4,289 cars, all commodities except grain, other forest products and merchandise, showing gains, coal loading with a gain of 2,155 cars, and miscellaneous freight following with a gain of 1,018. Total loadings for the year amounted to 2,032,157 cars which was 140,930 or 6.5 p.c. below the 1932 total and was the lowest recorded. At the end of the first six months, however, the total was 175,985 cars or 16.3 p.c. below the 1932 loadings. Grain was lighter than in 1932 by 57,326 cars, merchandise by 66,755, and miscellaneous freight by 63,432 cars, but all other commodities were heavier than in the previous year.

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### Increased Imports of Lumber

An interesting item in the imports of lumber in November was Australian blackwood veneer to the value of \$15,255. The largest single item was 1,017,000 ft. of oak at \$53,339 from the United States. Exclusive of veneers and the like the total lumber import was valued at \$201,211 compared with \$146,703 a year ago.

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### Export of Farm Implements Improves

The November export of farm implements and machinery was valued at \$130,634, almost double that of November 1932. France, Great Britain, British South Africa, United States, Australia, Argentina and New Zealand were leading purchasers.

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### Imports of Leather Footwear

Canada's imports of footwear in November, exclusive of rubber, came mainly from the United Kingdom, \$43,340 out of a total of \$59,889. Men's leather footwear came chiefly from the United Kingdom as usual. The November total was an increase over November 1932.

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### Canned Meat from Argentina and Australia

The chief item in the November imports of meats was 750,937 pounds of canned meat valued at \$38,147 from Argentina. There was a consignment of 49,671 pounds at \$4,522 from Australia.

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### Automobile Imports

Imports of automobiles, auto parts and other vehicles of iron in November amounted in value to \$891,822, compared with \$616,760 a year ago. Parts from the United States accounted for more than half. A feature was 16 trucks from the United Kingdom.

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### Vital Statistics in the Second Quarter of 1933

Live births in Canada during the second quarter of 1933 numbered 57,647 (proliminary figures) giving an equivalent annual rate of 21.7 per 1,000 population as compared with 59,826 births and a rate of 22.9 for the second quarter of 1932. Deaths totalled 25,418 with a rate of 9.6 as against 26,917 and a rate of 10.3 for the corresponding period of last year. There were 15,674 marriages during the quarter as compared with 16,303 in the second quarter of 1932, and the rate was 5.9 as against 6.2. Deaths under one year of age numbered 4,020 giving a rate of 69.7 per 1,000 live births against 4,248 and a rate of 71.0. There were 298 maternal deaths as compared with 301, and the rate was 5.2 as against 5.0 per 1,000 live births.

The number of deaths assigned to certain causes in the second quarter of 1933 was as follows (in each case the figures for the corresponding period of 1932 are given in parentheses): Typhoid and paratyphoid fever 54 (87); Smallpox 3 (1); Measles 57 (148); Scarlet fever 28 (48); Diphtheria 47 (60); Influenza 302 (1,374); Infantile paralysis 12 (17); Tuberculosis 1,900 (2,092); Cancer 2,691 (2,466); Diseases of the heart 3,883 (3,913); Diseases of the arteries 1,714 (1,712); Pneumonia 1,597 (1,764); Diarrhoea and enteritis 625 (598); Nephritis 1,501 (1,401); Suicides 267 (294); Homicides 40 (43); Automobile accidents 196 (220) Other violence 1,148 (1,157).

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### Trade Composition Industry in 1932

Thirty-one establishments, or 3 more than the previous year, reported under the Trade Composition group in 1932. A total of 280 employees were engaged in the industry, an increase of 44 over the previous year. Wages and salaries likewise increased from \$383,083 to \$397,918. What might be considered as the products of this industry amounted to \$609,539 in 1932, of which \$571,228 represented sums received for trade composition. This industry includes all firms whose principal business consists in linotype, monotype and hand composition for the printing trade.

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#### Fifth Successive Gain in Sales of New Autos at Retail

For the fifth successive month sales of new automobiles at retail in November show a gain over the corresponding month in 1932. The number increased 12.4% while the value increased 16.6%. The number of trucks and buses sold showed a gain of 4.8% while their value increased 39.3%. The combined result for all automobiles, truck and bus sales was a gain of 10.4% in number and 21.8% in values.

There were 989 automobiles sold in November, 1,606 in October, and 880 in November 1932; while trucks and buses numbered 326 in November, 496 in October, and 311 in November 1932. The automobiles were valued at \$1,039,020 in November, \$1,640,543 in October, and \$890,940 in November 1932, and the value of trucks and buses amounted to \$363,958 in November, \$494,945 in October, and \$261,283 in November 1932.

The total number of new vehicles sold was 1,315 in November, 2,102 in October, and 1,191 in November 1932; and the retail value was \$1,402,978 in November, \$2,135,488 in October, and \$1,152,223 in November 1932.

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#### Decrease in Amount of Financing of Automobiles

The total amount of financing of new and used automobiles, trucks and buses in Canada during November 1933 shows a decrease when compared with October, and indicates a drop of 24.9% as compared with November 1932. The total number of vehicles financed was 2,671 in November, 3,507 in October, and 4,286 in November 1932; and the amount of financing was \$1,002,198 in November, \$1,352,458 in October, and \$1,334,307 in November 1932.

New vehicles financed numbered 613 in November, 952 in October, and 1,166 in November 1932; while used vehicles numbered 2,058 in November, 2,555 in October, and 3,120 in November 1932. The amount of financing for new vehicles was \$461,732 in November, \$688,736 in October, and \$538,264 in November 1932; and the total for used vehicles was \$540,466 in November, \$663,772 in October, and \$796,043 in November 1932.

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#### Large Increase in Rubber Exports

Rubber exports in November were valued at \$768,909 compared with \$546,544 a year ago. Pneumatic tire casings sent to 63 countries accounted for \$313,015 of the total. The chief buyers were: British South Africa \$53,743, New Zealand \$26,885, Brazil \$26,294, Spain \$26,206, British India \$23,759, British East Africa \$22,544, Straits Settlements \$21,768, United Kingdom \$10,871, Netherlands \$10,647.

Rubber boots and shoes were sent to 24 countries to the value of \$261,202, the chief being the United Kingdom at \$208,769, Newfoundland \$34,506, Italy \$5,010 and Norway \$4,661. Canvas shoes with rubber soles went to 23 countries to the value of \$45,522, about four times the export of a year ago. The leading purchasers were: Argentina \$20,455, United Kingdom \$13,707, British South Africa \$3,548, British West Indies \$3,348.

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#### November Imports of Coffee and Tea

Imports of coffee and chicory in November were valued at \$279,500, somewhat less than the average. Green coffee amounted to 2,726,706 pounds at \$255,298. The chief source of supply was British East Africa from which came 1,078,926 pounds at \$90,225. Other large consignments were: Brazil 625,412 lb. at \$51,813, Jamaica 388,051 at \$42,556, Colombia 381,738 at \$37,167.

The importation of tea, 3,368,267 pounds at \$678,807 was considerably larger than average. The total of black tea was 2,950,021 pounds and of green tea 418,346. Black tea of India amounted to 1,932,099, Ceylon 915,379, China 59,915 and other countries 42,628. Green tea of Japan amounted to 388,255, Ceylon 18,233 and China 11,758.

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#### Crude Petroleum Imports

Crude petroleum imported into Canada during November totalled 94,471,616 gallons valued at \$2,859,455 compared with 56,772,107 valued at \$1,705,120 imported in the corresponding month last year. The month's import came mainly from the United States, which country supplied 71,015,746 gallons, Colombia 20,484,430 and Trinidad 2,961,440.



### Rubber Imports in November

Total imports of rubber into Canada in November amounting in value to \$528,409 were almost double the \$265,933 import of the corresponding month last year.

Listed among the imports of rubber was an importation of 4,891,813 lb. of raw rubber which came mainly from the United States and the balance from the United Kingdom. Rubber boots and shoes to the number of 103,838 pairs were more than four times the import of the same month of last year. They came mainly from Straits Settlements, 91,179 pairs, with lesser amounts from Czechoslovakia, United States, Japan, United Kingdom, Newfoundland and Germany.

Hard rubber in tubes for fountain pens, rubber cement, rubber clothing, rubber belting, rubber gloves, rubber heels, rubber hose, hot-water bottles, rubber mats and matting and rubber packing formed a large part of the November import, and came mainly from the United States. An unusual importation was 420 pairs of rubber heels from Australia. Raw gutta-percha, substitute rubber, rubber thread, golf balls, bicycle tires and raincoats came mainly from the United Kingdom.

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### Imports of Casinghead Gasoline

Natural casinghead gasoline imported into Canada in November totalled 3,620,125 gallons valued at \$270,237 compared with 3,059,542 gallons at \$182,874 in the corresponding month last year. The November import came entirely from the United States.

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### Axle Grease and Vaseline Importations

Axle grease to the amount of 189,215 pounds at \$9,560 came into Canada in November as compared with 296,304 pounds at \$15,574 in November 1932. The United States supplied the bulk.

An increased importation of vaseline and the like is noted in the imports for November as compared with November 1932, \$25,795 and \$17,692 respectively. The United States supplied Canada to the greatest extent with lesser quantities from Germany, Belgium, France and the United Kingdom.

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### Paraffine Wax and Candles Imported

Paraffine wax importations jumped in November to 330,493 pounds at \$11,021 from 89,035 pounds at \$3,203 in 1932. The supply came from British India and the United States, 212,800 from the former and 117,693 from the latter.

Paraffine wax candles received during November totalled 24,731 pounds valued at \$4,818 compared with 45,497 pounds at \$8,333 in the same month last year. The importation came from the United States, which country supplied 20,132 pounds, United Kingdom 2,863 and Japan 1,736.

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### Farm Implements and Machinery

Farm implements and machinery importations were valued at \$57,516 in November compared with \$71,398 in the corresponding month in 1932. During the 12 months ending November total importations were valued at \$2,332,038 while in the corresponding 12 month period in 1932 the import was valued at \$2,200,123. November's import came mainly from the United States, valued at \$45,269 and the United Kingdom at \$7,748.

Cream separators and parts came mainly from Sweden, valued at \$2,468 with lesser amounts from the United States and the United Kingdom. Pronged forks came from the United Kingdom, United States and Sweden; scythes from the United Kingdom; sickles from the United States and the United Kingdom; hoes from the United Kingdom and the United States.

There were seven internal combustion engines for use on farms valued up to \$1,400 each imported from the United States.

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### Estimated Production of Corn in the United States

The estimated production of corn of 2,289,544,000 bushels in the United States is practically the same as the October forecast. The crop is nearly 600,000,000 bushels less than in 1932 and 222,447,000 bushels or 9 per cent less than the 1926-30 average production of 2,511,991,000 bushels. Yield per acre of 22.2 bushels is 15 per cent less than the 10-year (1921-1930) average yield of 26.1 bushels.

### Radio Industry

Sales of radio receiving sets in Canada during July, August and September of 1933 amounted to 29,366 units valued at \$1,240,354, f.o.b. factory. Sets sold in the corresponding periods of 1932 and 1931 numbered 34,300 and 76,908 units respectively. For the first nine months of 1933 an aggregate of 65,264 sets with a factory selling price of \$2,610,920 were placed in the hands of distributors as against 87,914 sets worth \$4,405,330 in the nine months ending September 1932.

Compared with the figures for the two preceding quarters, data for July, August and September showed that the sales of automobile and other portable battery sets advanced from 190 in the first quarter and 120 in the second quarter to 5,072 in the third. Increased sales were also noted in other battery models, medium and short wave sets and table and mantle models while sales of console sets and the phonograph and radio combinations were slightly lower.

In the course of a twelve months period the position of Canadian radio manufacturers has improved considerably with respect to stocks on hand, inventory being reported at 31,189 machines on September 30, 1932, compared with 9,937 on September 30, 1933. Production of radio receiving sets in the third quarter of this year amounted to 22,061 machines with a factory selling price of \$938,389 to make a total output for the nine months of 44,306 units worth \$1,564,930.

### Food Chains in Canada

The census of 1931 showed that there were 44 grocery chains in operation, with 749 stores and net sales of \$45,044,000; 23 combination chains operating 1,379 stores doing a total business of \$74,800,000; 20 meat market chains and one fish market chain having a combined total of 225 units and sales of \$8,448,000.

Of the 2,218 units of grocery, combination, and meat chains which could be classified as to date of ownership, 336 or 15.1 per cent, were established in 1930; 1,168 or 52.6 per cent, were opened during the years 1926 to 1929; and the remaining 32.3 per cent were in operation prior to 1926. The greatest expansion in these food chains took place in 1929, when 464 new branches, approximately 20 per cent of the total number in operation in 1930, were opened, of which 154 were located in Ontario.

### Retail Sales in November

Index Numbers of Retail Sales issued by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics show a decline in the general index from 88.0 in October to 85.4 in November. This compares with 91.8 and 85.7 respectively in October and November 1932. The slight drop of 2.6 points from October to November 1933, is significant because it is considerably less than the usual experience. If the indexes were corrected for seasonal variations, there would have been a rise instead of a fall.

November is the fourth consecutive month during which the general index of retail sales has made a favourable showing compared with the corresponding month of 1932. For the first seven months of 1933 sales were materially below the level of 1932, but in the last four months the average is less than a point below that for the corresponding period in 1932. When December figures are available it is practically certain that the average for the last five months of 1933 will surpass that for the last five months of 1932.

### Cooking and Heating Apparatus

Apparatus for cooking or for heating buildings, whether wood and coal burning, gas, oil or electricity was imported into Canada to the value of \$47,119 during November, registering an increase in comparison with the \$42,619 import of November 1932. The major portion of the import amounting to \$46,591 was received from the United States and the remainder from the United Kingdom and Germany.



### Wheat in 1924 and 1933

The wheat crop in 1924 amounted to 262,097,000 bushels, which is similar to the wheat production this year, viz. 271,821,000 bushels. The two years were alike in some respects. With regard to grain production the crops showed a reduction from the previous years and prices showed a partial recovery, especially the grain prices. The monthly average price for No. 1 northern wheat for December 1923 was 93.2 cents and rose to \$1.64 in November 1924, while in this year of depression the average wheat price for the month for the similar grade rose from 42  $\frac{3}{8}$  cents in December 1932 to 63  $\frac{3}{4}$  cents in November 1933. It will be noted that the increase was not so great as in 1924 but it must be remembered that the world has been passing through a depression without equal in economic history, while 1924 was a year of readjustment when wheat was in demand in European countries devastated by the world war.

### Wheat Stocks and Movement

The visible supply of Canadian wheat on December 29 was 241,683,101 bushels compared with 242,887,256 the week before and 237,390,896 a year ago. Canadian wheat in the United States amounted to 14,038,595 bushels of which 5,482,648 was at Buffalo and 5,870,950 at New York. This compared with 13,575,232 on the same date last year when 7,431,720 bushels were located at Buffalo and 3,319,025 at New York. United States wheat in Canada was shown as 2,248,845 compared with 6,937,929 last year.

Wheat marketings in the Prairie Provinces for the week ending December 22 amounted to 1,832,253 bushels compared with 3,095,303 in the previous week and 3,374,622 last year. Receipts by provinces were, the figures within brackets being those of 1932: Manitoba 24,617 (133,635), Saskatchewan 768,668 (1,142,875), Alberta 1,038,968 (2,098,112). For the 21 weeks ending December 22 marketings were: Manitoba 22,801,148 (29,404,432), Saskatchewan 80,344,735 (144,734,984), Alberta 56,417,139 (99,417,153), total 159,563,020 (273,452,569).

Export clearances of wheat during the week ending December 29 amounted to 1,990,603 compared with 2,347,673 in the previous week and 3,588,445 in the corresponding week of 1932. Clearances by ports were as follows, the figures in brackets being those of 1932: Week ending December 29: Vancouver-New Westminster 866,631 (1,475,213), United States ports 600,000 (1,749,000) 1 St. John 259,572 (363,879), total 1,990,603 (3,588,445). Halifax 264,400 (nil)

Twenty-two weeks ending December 29: Montreal 31,926,674 (45,165,707), Vancouver-New Westminster 18,539,373 (45,094,309), United States ports 9,206,000 (12,077,000), Quebec 8,491,665 (1,217,904), Sorel 5,287,684 (11,073,265), Churchill 2,707,891 (2,736,030), St. John 563,672 (1,761,717), Halifax 315,067 (72,000), Victoria nil (596,121), Prince Rupert nil (677,813), total 77,038,026 (120,471,866).

### Production of Coal in November

Canada's coal production in November amounted to 1,339,678 tons as compared with 1,548,887 in October and 1,253,947 in November 1932. The five-year average for November was 1,432,398 tons. Bituminous coal output in November totalled 848,189 tons, sub-bituminous coal 66,262 and lignite coal 425,227.

Alberta mines produced 533,505 tons, a 7.6 per cent decline from the November 1932 total of 577,391. A 35 per cent increase was recorded in Nova Scotia's production; the month's output was 512,546 as against 379,715 in November 1932. The tonnage mined in British Columbia advanced 10 per cent to 138,976 tons from 126,287 a year ago. Saskatchewan's output declined 14 per cent to 126,391 tons, while New Brunswick's total was up 28 per cent to 28,260.

### Coke Production in November

Production of coke in Canada during November amounted to 174,236 tons which was an increase of 1 per cent over the October output of 172,508 and the highest tonnage reported for any month since the 179,125 tons in March 1931. The improvement over the previous month was altogether in Ontario where production advanced to 109,932 tons from 107,552. In the eastern provinces the tonnage fell off to 50,262 from 50,582 and in the western provinces to 14,042 tons from 14,374.



### November Imports of Coal Lower

Imports of coal into Canada in November decreased  $5\frac{1}{2}$  per cent to 1,424,603 tons as compared with 1,508,202 in the corresponding month of 1932. The 1928-1932 November importations averaged 1,656,522 tons. Receipts of anthracite coal amounted to 357,555 tons, of which Great Britain supplied 225,048 tons and the United States 132,507 tons. Canada's anthracite supply during the past eight months has been obtained from the following countries, Great Britain, 60.3 per cent and the United States 39.7 per cent.

### Canada's Telephones

There were 1,261,245 telephones in service in Canada in 1932. This was a decrease of 7 per cent from the 1931 total and 10 per cent from the high record made in 1930. The density of 12 telephones per 100 population was exceeded only by the United States where in 1931 there were 15.8 telephones per 100 population. The density in 1931 in Denmark was 10.1, in New Zealand 9.9 and in Sweden 9.1. Switzerland, Australia and Norway had averages between 8 and 7 and Hawaii had an average of 6.5, but no other country had half as many telephones in proportion to population and only four countries, the United States, France, India and the United Kingdom, had a greater total number of telephones.

Rural telephones showed the largest rate of decrease during the year, declining by 24,805, or 10.1 per cent. Urban residence telephones decreased by 60,053 or 8.3 per cent and business telephones by 17,772 or 4.8 per cent.

### Milling in November

During the month of November 8,158,446 bushels of wheat were ground in Canadian mills as compared with 8,638,600 for the corresponding month of the previous year. An increase was shown in the grinding of buckwheat, but all other grains were lower in November 1932. Grains ground during November are shown in bushels with comparative figures for the same month of the previous year in brackets: Wheat 8,158,600 (8,638,600); oats 1,262,294 (1,453,153); corn 168,662 (209,499); barley 81,383 (102,769); buckwheat 49,422 (42,307); and Mixed Grain, 588,189 (1,941,548).

Mill stocks of wheat on November 30 amounted to 9,943,671 bushels as compared with 15,300,632 bushels for the corresponding month in 1932. Flour production amounted to 1,827,340 barrels compared with 1,942,844 in November 1932. Exports of flour amounted to 547,602 barrels compared with 576,864 barrels in the same month of the previous year.

### Railway Statistics for October

Canadian railways earned \$27,239,163 in October as against \$28,190,355 in 1932 and \$61,871,271 in 1928, the peak year. Operating expenses were reduced from \$20,838,850 in 1932 to \$19,682,615, increasing the net operating revenue from \$7,351,505 to \$7,556,548 and the operating income from \$6,385,277 to \$6,653,804. Freight was 6.4 per cent below 1932 traffic and passenger traffic, measured in passenger miles, was only .89 per cent less than in October 1932, but passenger revenues were down 7 per cent. Total payroll amounted to \$12,699,674, which was \$1,157,480, or 8.4 per cent below last year's, and the number of employees decreased from 121,726 to 114,630, or by 5.8 per cent. For the ten months, net operating revenues amounted to \$26,233,823 as against \$28,205,120 in 1932, and the operating income decreased from \$19,381,685 to \$16,737,778.

Gross revenues of the Canadian National Railways for October amounted to \$12,802,858 as against \$13,641,397 in 1932. Operating expenses were reduced from \$11,108,807 to \$10,350,857 and net operating revenue from \$2,532,589 to \$2,452,000. Passenger traffic showed an increase of .3 per cent, but passenger revenues decreased by 4.4 per cent. The United States lines failed to maintain the improvement shown for the previous four months. For the ten months, January - October, the operating income was a debit of \$2,123,942 as against a debit of \$53,115 in 1932.

With an operating ratio of 63.48 per cent, the Canadian Pacific Railway earned a net operating revenue of \$4,370,737 as against \$4,285,159 in October 1932. Gross revenues were \$322,858 less than in 1932, but operating expenses were reduced by \$408,436, or 5.1 per cent. All this reduction was in wages, the operating payroll being reduced by \$497,334, or 9.3 per cent. Freight trains showed heavier loading of 39.7 gross tons and an increased earning of 18 cents per train mile, but passenger trains showed slightly lighter passenger travel and decreased earnings. For January to October, the net operating revenue amounted to \$17,452,789 in 1933 and \$17,773,433 in 1932 and the operating income decreased from \$14,454,943 in 1932 to \$14,029,898.



### Wholesale Prices Higher in December

The Dominion Bureau of Statistics index number of wholesale prices on the base 1926=100 advanced from 68.7 in November to 69.0 in December. 105 quotations were higher, 63 were lower, while 334 remained unchanged.

Vegetable Products moved down from 60.9 to 60.5, losses for barley, oats, rye, wheat and coffee, influencing the index more than gains for apples, flax, corn, gluten meal, bran, shorts, and tea. Animals and Their Products rose from 62.0 to 63.3, higher prices for steers, hogs, lambs, butter, and fresh and cured meats, outweighing reductions in the prices of calves, eggs, leather and hides.

Fibres, Textiles and Textile Products moved up from 70.9 to 71.7, due mainly to higher quotations for raw cotton, raw wool, worsted cloth yarns, and woollen cloth. Wood, Wood Products and Paper changed from 64.4 to 64.6, gains for spruce lath, fir timber, and wood pulp more than counterbalancing losses for cedar shingles.

Iron and Its Products advanced from 86.1 to 86.7, because of higher quotations for scrap iron and steel. Non-Ferrous Metals and Their Products changed from 66.2 to 66.5, gains for silver, copper, lead and zinc more than counterbalancing losses for imported copper wire bars, and tin. Non-Metallic Minerals and Their Products rose from 85.2 to 85.9, owing principally to advanced for imported bituminous coal and sulphur. Chemicals and Allied Products were 80.8 in December, as compared with 81.0 in November. White lead, copper sulphate and lamp alum declined while zinc oxide, lithopone and shellac advanced.

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### World Shipments of Wheat and Wheat Flour

World shipments of wheat and flour for the week ending January 1, amounted to 10,287,000 bushels as compared with shipments of 10,086,000 bushels for the previous week and 9,408,000 bushels for the corresponding week in 1932-33. Shipments from North America decreased by almost half a million bushels while Australian and Argentine clearances both increased by approximately the same amount. Russian shipments show an increase of almost two hundred thousand bushels.



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