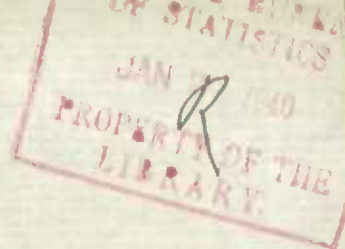


WEEKLY BULLETIN

Dominion Bureau of Statistics

Department of Trade and Commerce



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Weekly Review of Economic Conditions

There are six available indexes on a weekly basis that reflect the current general economics trend in the three great fields of general business, finance and speculation. Notes on the indexes follow:

Six important factors showing the trend of economic conditions averaged slightly higher in the third week of January than in the second. Advances were recorded in commodity and bond prices and in the adjusted index of bank clearings. Declines, on the other hand, were shown in carloadings, common stocks and speculative trading. Increases were shown over the same week of 1939 in carloadings, wholesale prices and bank clearings.

The index of carloadings showed a minor recession in the second week of the year but was at a considerably higher position than in the same week of 1939. During the first two weeks of the year, the total traffic movement was 85,433 cars against 76,239 in the same period of last year.

Owing to the advances initiated in September, wholesale prices during the first three weeks of the year were at a much higher level than in the same period of 1939. The index in the third week of January was 82.3 compared with 73.2 in the same week of last year, a gain of 12.4 per cent. Base metals were stronger on the Montreal commodity exchange, electrolytic copper having been 12.50 on January 23rd, against 11.20 on the 16th. Lead advanced from 5.00 to 5.50 and zinc from 5.15 to 5.65. Copper recorded recession on the New York market, while lead was steady. Grains showed moderate advance on the Winnipeg exchange, while speculative commodities were mixed on American markets.

High-grade bond prices recorded an advance in the third week of January, responding favourably to the offering of the first Dominion War Loan. The advance was continued recently, the $4\frac{1}{2}$'s of 1947-57 having been bid at 108 $\frac{1}{8}$ on January 23, against 106 $\frac{3}{4}$ on the 9th. Common stocks showed reaction in the week ended January 18, the index of 95 common stocks dropping from 100.7 to 98.9. The index of 15 power and traction stocks dropped from 61.4 to 60.6.

The weekly index, formed by weighting these six indexes on the basis of their tendency to fluctuation, was 103.9 in the week of January 20 against 103.5 in the preceding week, an increase of 0.4 per cent. The gain over the same week of 1939 was 0.3 per cent, the standing at that time having been 103.6.

Weekly Index with the Six Components
1926=100

Week Ended	Car load-ings ¹	Whole-sale Prices	Capitalized Bond Yields ²	Bank Clear-ings ³	Prices of Common Stocks	Shares Traded	Weekly Index ⁴
Jan. 21, 1939	69.7*	73.2	147.9	97.8	105.4	94.3	103.6*
Jan. 13, 1940	80.7*	82.2	132.1	98.4	100.7	94.4	103.5*
Jan. 20, 1940	80.4	82.3	134.4	98.5	98.9	74.1	103.9

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.

*Owing to the revision of the seasonal adjustment, the index of carloadings for the first week of January and the second week of January, 1939, have been altered. The weekly index was revised accordingly.

There are two principal reasons why the work of the Geological Survey is of such importance to the Nation. First, the Survey is the only Federal agency which is authorized to make a systematic and comprehensive study of the Nation's geology. Second, the Survey is the only Federal agency which is authorized to make a systematic and comprehensive study of the Nation's geology.

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Table 1. Summary of the work of the Geological Survey, 1941.

Category	Number of projects	Number of reports	Number of maps	Number of publications
Geology	100	100	100	100
Mineral resources	100	100	100	100
Water resources	100	100	100	100
Land resources	100	100	100	100
Other	100	100	100	100

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December Business Conditions

As measured by a number of important factors, economic conditions recorded a further improvement in December. Common stock prices reacted slightly and high-grade bond prices were at a somewhat lower level than in November. Bank deposits, on the other hand, recorded a sharp advance at the beginning of the month. As repeated increases have been shown since the beginning of 1934, bank deposits were recently at a new high point in the history of Canadian banking. The increase in wholesale prices continued during the last four months of the year, the level in December being higher than at any other time since the early months of 1938. The advance on the Winnipeg grain exchange, due to adverse weather conditions in the United States and Argentina, was an important influence in raising the general index of wholesale prices.

Business operations continued at a high level in December, but a slight recession was shown from the preceding month. According to the index of the physical volume of business, the trend was sharply upward from March until October, minor reaction having been shown after that month.

Nickel exports and receipts of gold at the Mint showed marked seasonal increases in December over the preceding month. The index for outward shipments of nickel rose from 406 to 450. The receipts of gold at the Mint amounted to 417,483 fine ounces against 392,581. Asbestos exports were 24,025 tons against 23,348 in November.

The output of foodstuffs from manufacturing plants was nearly maintained at the high level of the preceding month, the index receding from 127.7 to 127.1. The manufacture of sugar was in greater volume in the latest four-week period for which statistics are available. The index of inspected slaughterings dropped from 174.2 to 152.8. The output of factory cheese showed an important gain after seasonal adjustment. The production of creamery butter was nearly maintained and the index of canned salmon exports dropped from 137 to 119.9.

The release of cigars showed an increase after seasonal adjustment, the index advancing from 85 to 108. The number of cigarettes made available for consumption dropped from 632.9 million to 512.4 million. The index for the output of boots and shoes rose from 145 to 188. Footwear has been at an abnormally high level since last August, partly accounted for by orders for military purposes.

The cotton textile industry showed further advance in December, the index increasing from 166.0 to 171.4. The forestry industry was nearly maintained in December, the index receding one point only to 127.6. Some decline was shown in the production of newsprint, which amounted to 240,656 tons against 288,726. Planks and boards and wood pulp recorded gains. The outward shipments of wood pulp amounted to more than 200 million pounds against 158 million. The exports of planks and boards advanced from 138 million feet to 150 million.

The increase in the production of pig iron was slightly less than normal for the season, the total having been 94,620 long tons against 87,822. The output of automobiles was slightly higher at 16,978 units against 16,756. A slight increase was shown in the output of automobile tires, the index advancing from 114.0 to 114.7 in the latest month for which statistics are available.

The new business obtained by the construction industry was at a slightly higher level after seasonal adjustment. Contracts awarded, however, were \$9.4 million against \$12.7 million in November, while a considerable percentage increase was shown in building permits. The railway freight movement was nearly maintained after seasonal adjustment, the index standing at 82.6 against 84.0. Bank debits were \$3,057 million against \$2,930 million, a considerable increase having been shown after adjustment for seasonal tendencies and price changes.

The table on Page 3 illustrates the situation.

Economic Conditions in December compared with the preceding month and with December 1938

		Dec. 39	Dec. 38	P.C.Inc.+ Dec. 39-38	Nov. 39
Physical Volume of Business	1926=100	131.2 *	115.6	+13.5	133.0
Capitalized Bond Yields ...	1926=100	133.2	147.7	- 9.8	138.1
Bank Deposits	1926=100	135.3	125.2	+ 8.1	131.5
Copper Exports	cwt.	553,759	433,627	-18.4	537,518
Nickel Exports	cwt.	169,990	113,622	+49.6	204,079
Zinc Exports	cwt.	272,019	311,573	-12.7	301,543
Asbestos Exports	Tons	24,025	15,196	+58.1	23,348
Sugar Manufactured	lb.	190,390,511	144,018,061	+32.2	146,317,261
Cheese, factory production	lb.	2,338,735	2,077,613	+12.6	5,075,587
Butter, creamery production	lb.	11,779,630	11,247,322	+ 4.7	15,459,515
Cigarette releases	No.	512,379,837	520,383,500	- 1.5	632,937,596
Cigar releases	No.	13,210,380	10,560,985	+25.1	16,638,665
Cotton consumption	lb.	13,922,497	9,714,289	+43.3	15,978,183
Newsprint production	Tons	240,656	209,753	+14.7	288,726
Planks and Boards exported	M. Ft.	150,512	157,262	- 4.4	138,924
Shingles exported	Squares	42,076	40,960	+ 2.7	256,230
Pig Iron production	L. tons	94,620	53,381	+77.3	87,822
Automobile production	No.	16,978	18,670	- 9.1	16,756
Carloadings	No.	199,862	178,941	+11.7	248,328
Contracts awarded	\$	9,429,200	10,522,900	-10.4	12,739,300

* Preliminary estimate, based on 30 items out of 46

Domestic Exports during 1939

An increase of 10.4 per cent was recorded in the value of Canada's domestic exports during the calendar year 1939 when the total was \$924,926,000 compared with \$837,584,000 in 1938. The United States was Canada's best customer during the year with purchases totalling \$380,392,000 compared with \$270,461,000 in 1938, a gain of 40.6 per cent. The United Kingdom was in second place at \$328,084,000 compared with \$339,689,000, a decline of 3.4 per cent. Australia was third at \$32,029,000 in comparison with \$32,982,000, Japan next at \$28,168,000 compared with \$20,770,000, British South Africa \$17,965,000 compared with \$15,547,000, New Zealand \$11,954,000 compared with \$16,371,000 and British West Indies \$11,751,000 compared with \$11,011,000.

Other leading purchasers of Canadian products in 1939 were as follows, with 1938 figures in brackets: Norway, \$10,904,000 (\$7,854,000); Newfoundland, \$8,506,000 (\$8,403,000); Germany, \$7,869,000 (\$18,261,000); Netherlands, \$7,357,000 (\$10,267,000); Belgium, \$7,261,000 (\$9,555,000); France, \$6,973,000 (\$9,152,000); British India with Burma, \$5,396,000 (\$2,386,000); Brazil, \$4,407,000 (\$3,522,000); Sweden, \$4,284,000 (\$5,411,000); Argentina, \$4,117,000 (\$4,675,000); Ireland, \$3,597,000 (\$4,440,000); Mexico, \$3,004,000 (\$2,340,000); Straits Settlements, \$2,782,000 (\$2,448,000); China, \$2,636,000 (\$2,885,000); Italy, \$2,231,000 (\$1,745,000).

Canada's Leading Markets in 1939

Canada's 20 leading markets in 1939 were as follows: United States \$380,392,000, United Kingdom \$328,084,000, Australia \$32,029,000, Japan \$28,168,000, British South Africa \$17,965,000, New Zealand \$11,954,000, British West Indies \$11,751,000, Norway \$10,904,000, Newfoundland \$8,506,000, Germany \$7,869,000, Netherlands \$7,357,000, Belgium \$7,261,000, France \$6,973,000, British India \$5,396,000, Brazil \$4,407,000, Sweden \$4,284,000, Argentina \$4,117,000, Ireland \$3,597,000, Mexico \$3,004,000, Straits Settlements \$2,782,000.

December Exports of Farm Implements and Machinery

A sharp advance was recorded in Canada's December export of farm implements and machinery, when the value was \$703,063 compared with \$574,754 in November and \$193,119 in December, 1938. Purchases by the United Kingdom totalled \$411,194 and the United States \$137,509. Exports during 1939 aggregated \$6,974,684 as against \$7,790,124 in 1938.

Exports of Canadian Cattle

The export of Canadian cattle was at a lower point in December when 5,403 head valued at \$271,042 were shipped out of the country compared with 21,072 at \$1,084,651 in the previous month and 11,841 at \$536,741 in December, 1938. These went mainly to the United States. On the other hand, exports during the calendar year 1939 advanced to 283,379 head at \$14,429,349 from the 1938 total of 169,973 head at \$8,316,091.

Exports of Planks and Boards

Exports of planks and boards in December totalled 150,312,000 feet valued at \$3,976,246 as against 138,924,000 at \$3,805,012 in November and 157,262,000 at \$3,298,775 in December, 1938. Purchases by the United Kingdom amounted to 67,416,000 feet and the United States 45,283,000. Exports during 1939 aggregated 2,113,160,000 feet as compared with 1,667,088,000 in 1938.

Exports in December included the following leading varieties, with 1938 figures in brackets: birch, 7,255,000 (9,220,000) feet; cedar, 3,730,000 (6,595,000); Douglas fir, 52,584,000 (81,872,000); pine, 9,226,000 (10,468,000); hemlock, 14,927,000 (14,877,000); spruce, 60,983,000 (32,180,000); maple, 1,024,000 (902,000).

Imports of Farm Implements and Machinery

November imports of farm implements and machinery were valued at \$1,285,512 as compared with \$2,229,926 in October and \$723,446 in November, 1938. The United States accounted for \$1,226,929, consisting mainly of internal combustion traction engines and parts. Imports during the eleven months ended November amounted to \$19,470,392, slightly lower than in the corresponding period of 1938.

Imports of Tea and Coffee

Canada imported more tea but less coffee and chicory in November than in the same month of 1938. Imports of the former totalled 4,534,770 pounds compared with 3,449,315 and the latter 3,066,774 pounds compared with 3,638,728. During the eleven months ended November, tea imports aggregated 39,770,442 pounds compared with 34,464,894 a year ago, and of coffee and chicory 44,609,479 pounds compared with 40,039,609.

Imported Automobiles in November

Automobiles were imported in November to the value of \$1,329,000 as compared with \$1,251,000 in November, 1938, of which the United States supplied \$1,313,000 compared with \$1,203,000. Lower priced passenger cars accounted for the bulk. Imports of automobile parts totalled \$3,076,000 in comparison with \$2,680,000 in November, 1938.

Imported Fertilizers

The United States supplied most of Canada's imported fertilizers in November, when the total was 1,304,297 cwt. as compared with 1,312,047 in November, 1938. The total for the eleven months ended November was 6,479,197 cwt. compared with 6,728,155 a year ago.

Domestic exports of fertilizers in November amounted to 649,619 cwt. as against 512,344 in 1938. The United States, Hawaii and the Philippines were the chief purchasers. Exports during the eleven months ended November amounted to 6,830,017 cwt. compared with 5,520,215 in 1938.

Exports of Butter and Cheese

Canada's December export of butter amounted to 1,046 cwt. of the value of \$30,991 as against 2,488 at \$69,637 in November and 1,856 at \$37,187 in December, 1938. During 1938 exports rose to 123,986 cwt. valued at \$2,673,765 compared with 38,934 at \$871,547 in 1938.

Cheese exports in December totalled 30,188 cwt. worth \$524,154 compared with 188,224 at \$2,754,548 in November and 75,745 at \$1,089,857 in December, 1938. Exports during 1939 aggregated 909,448 cwt. valued at \$12,248,650 in comparison with 809,891 at \$11,874,223 in 1938.

December Export of Meats

The export of Canadian bacon and hams, shoulders and sides to the United Kingdom, amounting in December to 269,737 cwt. valued at \$4,683,636 was more than double the export of December, 1938, when the total was 130,492 cwt. valued at \$2,120,461. This trade with the United Kingdom accounted for a large part of Canada's total meat export business in December, when the value was \$5,409,544 as compared with \$4,517,329 in November and \$2,701,120 in December, 1938.

December Exports of Newsprint

Exports of Canadian newsprint paper recorded advance during December when the total was 5,105,174 cwt. valued at \$11,245,295 compared with 5,079,939 at \$11,232,352 in November and 4,229,033 at \$9,049,872 in December, 1938. The United States took 4,426,676 cwt., Argentina 169,507, Australia 100,127, United Kingdom 88,114, Mexico 58,567, Brazil 57,226, Cuba 25,197, Peru 24,218 and British India 23,497. Exports during the calendar year 1939 aggregated 53,173,817 cwt. valued at \$115,685,970 compared with 48,493,092 worth \$104,618,042 in 1938.

November Imports of Tin

Canada's November imports of tin in blocks, pigs, etc., amounted to 7,326 cwt. valued at \$372,116 compared with 6,642 at \$337,370 in October and 5,391 at \$235,166 in November, 1938. The Straits Settlements contributed 5,152 cwt., the United Kingdom 1,748, Australia 246 and the United States 180 cwt.

December Exports of Non-Ferrous Ores

December exports of Canadian non-ferrous ores and smelter products included the following, with figures for December, 1938, in brackets: aluminium, 82,259 (98,648) cwt., copper in ore, matte, regulus, etc., 124,233 (82,656) cwt., copper blister, 25,165 (29,816) cwt., copper old and scrap, 11,865 (2,088) cwt., copper in ingots, bars, cakes, slabs and billets, 172,920 (273,249) cwt., copper in rods, strips, sheets, plates and tubing 31,441 (47,906) cwt., lead in pigs 288,096 (285,928) cwt., nickel in matte or speiss, \$940,536 (\$908,496); fine nickel, \$3,212,870 (\$1,746,774); silver in ore, concentrates, etc., 272,668 (203,760) ounces; silver bullion, 1,276,704 (1,635,298) ounces; zinc spelter 272,019 (258,713) cwt.

Imports of Vegetable Oils

Imports of vegetable oils in November were valued at \$995,359 compared with \$1,169,752 in October and \$1,127,825 in November, 1938. The total during the eleven months ended November was \$8,431,360 compared with \$11,465,823 in the corresponding period of 1938.

Imports of Paints and Varnishes

Paints and varnishes were imported in November to the value of \$553,295 compared with \$476,979 in October and \$519,944 in November, 1938. The United States and the United Kingdom made the heaviest contributions. Imports during the eleven months ended November aggregated \$4,098,565 compared with \$3,577,162 in the same period of 1938.

Building Permits in December

The building permits issued by 58 cities in December represented construction work valued at \$6,035,212 as compared with \$4,148,889 in November and \$3,482,915 in December, 1938. The value of construction permits taken out during 1939 aggregated \$59,724,014 in comparison with \$60,817,332 in 1938.

Primary Movement of Wheat

Wheat receipts in the Prairie Provinces during the week ended January 19 amounted to 892,764 bushels compared with 1,249,205 in the previous week and 1,241,384 in the corresponding week last year. By provinces the receipts were as follows, with figures for 1939 in brackets: Manitoba, 49,508 (84,954) bushels; Saskatchewan, 388,314 (391,307); Alberta, 454,942 (765,123).

Marketings in the three provinces during the twenty-five weeks ended January 19 aggregated 365,995,279 bushels in comparison with 257,426,188 in the same period of the previous crop year. The totals were as follows by provinces: Manitoba 50,639,583 (40,444,231) bushels; Saskatchewan, 203,839,325 (102,832,478); Alberta, 111,516,371 (114,149,479).

Overseas Export Clearances of Wheat

Export clearances of wheat overseas and imports into the United States for consumption and milling in bond during the week ending January 19 amounted to 5,222,617 bushels in comparison with 2,455,610 in the corresponding week last year. The accumulated total for the period from August 1 to January 19 was 68,600,457 bushels as compared with 78,700,321 in the corresponding period of the previous crop year.

Wheat Stocks in Store

Canadian wheat in store on January 19 totalled 341,644,260 bushels in comparison with 346,158,391 a week ago and 161,610,348 on the corresponding date last year. The amount in store in the United States was 36,038,092 bushels as compared with 37,516,042 the week before and 6,845,000 a year ago.

Value of Field Crops

The gross farm value of production of field crops in 1939 is now estimated at \$634,130,000, an increase of 15 per cent over the value of \$550,069,000 on the basis of finally revised estimates of the 1938 field crops. Higher farm values are shown in almost all of the individual field crops. The farm value of the 1939 wheat crop is estimated at \$252,779,000, an increase of \$41,514,000 from 1938. The effect of increased wheat production on the value of the crop was partly offset by lower farm prices. Coarse grains prices, however, were improved this year. The farm value of the oat crop is \$16,628,000 higher, while the barley value is \$1,701,000 higher. The 1939 potato crop is valued at \$39,040,000, an increase of \$5,957,000 compared with the farm value of the 1938 crop.

November Production of Gold

The Canadian production of gold in November amounted to 423,358 fine ounces valued at \$16,299,283. In the previous month the output totalled 432,678 ounces and in November, 1938, 412,707. Production during the eleven months ended November aggregated 4,659,238 ounces or 8.6 per cent above the output a year ago.

The November output by provinces was as follows, with October figures in brackets: Ontario, 261,061 (266,376) ounces; Quebec, 75,390 (75,673); British Columbia, 50,705 (49,036); Manitoba and Saskatchewan, 21,389 (23,197); Northwest Territories and Yukon, 12,668 (16,283); Nova Scotia, 2,044 (2,047).

Feldspar Production in 1938

During 1938 the gross value of production by the feldspar and quartz mining industry totalled \$1,233,647 compared with \$1,428,714 in 1937 and \$789,682 in 1936. In 1938 commercial shipments of feldspar were made only from properties located in Ontario, Manitoba and Quebec; quartz in various forms was produced in Nova Scotia, Quebec, Ontario and Saskatchewan, while production of nepheline-syenite was confined to the province of Ontario.

Output of Central Electric Stations

Central electric stations produced 2,534,759,000 kilowatt hours in December compared with 2,602,449,000 in November and 2,353,196,000 in December, 1938. The decrease from November was all in the eastern provinces, conservation of water because of light precipitation being the cause of reduced output at some of the large plants. For the year 1939 output totalled 28,350,943,000 kilowatt hours, establishing a new high and recording an increase of nine per cent over the 1938 output of 26,012,805,000.

December exports to the United States totalled 150,131,000 kilowatt hours compared with 161,290,000 in December, 1938. Consumption of firm power reached a new high at 1,817,974,000 kilowatt hours compared with the previous high of 1,810,089,000 in November. Deliveries of secondary power to electric boilers dropped to 566,655,000 kilowatt hours from 637,114,000 in November.

Fur Production in 1937-38

Lower average prices were responsible for the decrease in the total value of furs produced in Canada during the twelve months ended June 1938, when the value was \$13,196,354 compared with \$17,526,365 in the previous season and \$15,464,883 in 1935-36. These totals comprise the value of pelts taken by trappers and pelts sold from fur farms, the value of the latter representing approximately 43 per cent of the whole.

The value of the silver fox pelts at \$6,183,522 represents 47 per cent of the total of all kinds of furs. Second in importance is mink, with a total value of \$1,400,587. Probably 40 per cent of the number and 50 per cent of the value of mink taken may be credited to the fur farms. Muskrat came next at \$1,320,000, white fox \$700,194, beaver \$568,486, marten \$555,002, red fox \$449,985, ermine \$348,213, cross fox \$319,151, lynx \$315,192, coyote \$285,360, otter \$176,533, fisher \$140,293, squirrel \$113,811.

London and New York are the chief markets for Canadian furs; the export trade for the twelve months ended June 1938 totalled \$12,653,355, the United Kingdom receiving \$8,363,694 worth and the United States \$3,610,520. At the close of the Great War, Montreal took a position as an international fur market, holding the first Canadian fur auction sale in 1920. At the sales held in Montreal during 1938 the pelts sold numbered 1,438,101, while the value amounted to \$4,992,956. Fur auction sales are held also at Winnipeg, Edmonton and Vancouver.

Canada 1940

The publication is announced by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics of the 1940 edition of the Official Handbook of "Canada".

Canada 1940 covers the present situation in the Dominion from Atlantic to Pacific, the weight of emphasis being placed on those aspects which are currently of most importance. All phases of the country's economic organization are dealt with and statistics are brought up to the latest possible moment. The text is accompanied by a wealth of illustrative matter which adds to the interest of the subjects treated. There are also two double-page and two triple-page inserts as well as frontispiece matter in colour dealing with the Royal Visit.

The Introduction is a short review of current developments at the close of 1939, with special reference to Canada's War Program as described by the Prime Minister in his recent addresses to the Canadian people over the air. The Special Article following this Introduction deals with the Western Oil Situation -- Its Possibilities and Its Problems. Chapter I on the Constitution and Government of Canada has been specially prepared for this edition from material supplied by the Department of External Affairs, Ottawa. The economic survey is covered in eighteen chapters dealing with population, production, internal and external trade, transportation, education, etc.

The price of the publication is 25 cents per copy. A special price concession of 10 cents per copy has been authorized in the case of teachers, bona fide students and ministers of religion. Applications should be addressed to the King's Printer, Government Printing Bureau, Ottawa.

Registration of Marriages in War Months

There were 4,967 marriages registered in December in 67 cities and towns of Canada having 10,000 population and over. In December, 1938, the number was 3,156. The number of registrations in these cities and towns during the four war months of 1939 was 25,267 compared with 15,935 for the corresponding months of 1938. This was an ~~increase of 57 per cent~~ or over 58 per cent for the four months; the ~~increase for December was~~ 57 per cent.

Births registered in December numbered 6,536 and deaths 4,505, as compared with 7,263 births and 4,659 deaths in December, 1938, showing decreases of 10 per cent in births and three per cent in deaths.

During the year 1939 births registered in 67 cities and towns totalled 86,170; deaths 52,635 and marriages 51,108, as against 84,608 births, 51,709 deaths and 41,194 marriages in 1938. This comparison shows increases of two per cent in births, $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent in deaths and 24 per cent in marriages.

Shipments of Rigid Insulating Board

Domestic shipments of rigid insulating board in December amounted to 4,123,091 square feet as compared with 5,426,325 in November and 2,983,125 in December, 1938. Shipments during 1939 aggregated 51,645,016 square feet in comparison with 48,610,979 in 1938.

Freight Traffic on Railways in October

Revenue freight loaded at Canadian stations and received from foreign connections during October amounted to 9,932,863 tons compared with 9,042,408 in October 1938 and 8,410,658 in October, 1937. The leading classifications of freight were as follows, with 1938 figures in brackets: agricultural, 2,853,787 (3,437,744) tons; animal, 223,771 (218,394); mine, 3,610,299 (2,859,131); forest, 393,227 (678,188); manufactures and miscellaneous, 2,346,779 (1,848,951).

Production of Concentrated Milk

The quantity of concentrated milk produced during December amounted to 11,307,016 pounds compared with 8,450,446 in December, 1938. The principal item was evaporated milk. Output of concentrated milk during 1939 totalled 166,596,841 pounds compared with 161,066,445 in 1938.

Retail Prices, Rents and Costs of Services

The index number of retail prices, rents and costs of services on the base 1926=100 rose from 85.0 in November to 85.5 in December, increases for clothing, furniture, house-furnishings, tobacco and gasoline being of more consequence than a moderate reduction in food prices. Last year the index was 83.6.

Living costs were comparatively stable during the first nine months of 1939, the index moving within limits of 0.5 per cent. In October sharp increases in food prices caused a rise of more than two per cent in the general cost of living index and further advances of lesser importance occurred in the two final months of the year, resulting in a net advance for 1939 amounting to 2.3 per cent.

External Trade of the United Kingdom

The external trade of the United Kingdom in November, exclusive of bullion and specie, totalled £124,093,404 compared with £88,462,450 in October and £126,010,753 in November, 1938, according to the British Board of Trade. The aggregate for the eleven months ended November was £1,243,011,699 as compared with £1,336,790,980 in the corresponding period of 1938.

November imports were valued at £83,988,000 as compared with £61,841,464 in October and £77,973,610 in November, 1938. Domestic exports totalled £37,360,327 compared with £24,622,840 in October and £42,923,223 a year ago. Exports of foreign merchandise amounted to £2,745,077 compared with £1,998,146 in October and £5,113,912 in November, 1938.

Financing of Motor Vehicle Sales

For the third consecutive month, financing of new and used motor vehicle sales in Canada recorded an advance over the corresponding month of 1933, 9,666 units being financed for \$4,243,132 in December compared with 8,910 for \$3,961,539 in December, 1933. Preliminary totals for the year 1939 revealed 151,419 transactions involving \$62,056,001 compared with 162,703 involving \$69,665,853 in 1933.

Reports Issued During the Week

1. Third Estimate of Yield and Value of Field Crops, Canada (10 cents).
 2. Building Permits, December (10 cents).
 3. Domestic Exports, December (10 cents).
 4. Financing of Motor Vehicle Sales, December (10 cents).
 5. Car Loadings (10 cents).
 6. Aerated Waters Industry, 1933 (15 cents).
 7. Domestic Shipments of Rigid Insulating Board, December (10 cents).
 8. Traffic Report of Railways, October (10 cents).
 9. The Feldspar & Quartz Mining Industry, 1933 (25 cents).
 10. Security Prices and Foreign Exchange (10 cents).
 11. Output of Central Electric Stations, December (10 cents).
 12. Production of Asphalt Roofing, December (10 cents).
 13. Sales of Asphalt Roofing, December (10 cents).
 14. Exports of Non-Ferrous Ores and Smelter Products, December (10 cents).
 15. Imports of Non-Ferrous Ores and Smelter Products, November (10 cents).
 16. Imports of Stoves, Sheet Metal Products, Refrigerators, November (10 cents).
 17. Imports by Principal Countries, November (10 cents).
 18. Trade with Empire Countries, November (10 cents).
 19. Imports and Exports of Soap, November (10 cents).
 20. Imports and Exports of Vegetable Oils, November (10 cents).
 21. Imports of Paints and Varnishes, November (10 cents).
 22. Exports by Principal Countries, December (10 cents).
 23. Canadian Grain Statistics (10 cents).
 24. Registrations of Births, Deaths and Marriages, December (10 cents).
 25. The Sand-Lime Brick Industry, 1933 (15 cents).
 26. Coffee, Tea, Spice and Miscellaneous Food Industries, 1933 (25 cents).
 27. Fur Production of Canada, 1937-38 (25 cents).
 28. Imports of Farm Implements and Machinery, November (10 cents).
 29. Imports of Coffee and Tea, November (10 cents).
 30. Imports and Exports of Toilet Preparations, November (10 cents).
 31. Imports of Vehicles of Iron, November (10 cents).
 32. Imports and Exports of Fertilizers, November (10 cents).
 33. Exports of Pulp Wood, Wood Pulp and Paper, December (10 cents).
 34. Exports of Milk, Milk Products and Eggs, December (10 cents).
 35. Exports of Meats, Lard and Sausage Casings, December (10 cents).
 36. Exports of Farm Implements and Machinery, December (10 cents).
 37. Exports of Living Animals, December (10 cents).
 38. Exports of Lumber, December (10 cents).
 39. Gold Production, November (10 cents).
 40. Production of Concentrated Milk, December (10 cents).
 41. Prices and Price Indexes, December (10 cents).
 42. Weekly Index Numbers of Wholesale Prices (10 cents).
 43. Canada 1940 (25 cents).
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