

## WEEKLY BULLETIN

Dominion Bureau of Statistics

Department of Trade and Commerce

Vol. IX - No. 6

Ottawa, Saturday, February 8, 1941

Price \$1.00 per annum

Weekly Indexes

There are six indexes available on a weekly basis in Canada that reflect the general economic trend. These cover respectively:

Business - carloadings and wholesale prices

Finance - bank clearings and capitalized bond yields,

Speculation - common stock prices and shares traded.

Notes on the indexes follow:

The seasonally adjusted index of carloadings on the base of 1926 recorded a gain in the fifth week of the year, the advance having been from 91.5 to 92.6. The increase in the eastern division was less than normal for the season, while an appreciable advance was recorded in the West. The traffic movement was 53,461 cars compared with 52,085 in the preceding week and 50,077 in the same week of 1940. The gain over one week ago was 1.2 per cent, while an advance of 5.2 per cent was shown over the same week of 1940.

Wholesale prices were maintained in the last week of January, the index remaining at 84.8. Minor advances were shown in crop products and wood and paper while recessions were recorded in animal products and chemicals. Regarding sensitive commodities, manufacturing materials showed an advance, the index moving up from 66.0 to 66.4 while food-stuffs declined from 70.5 to 70.2.

Minor decline was shown in high-grade bond prices, but the index of capitalized bond yields was 5 per cent greater than in the same week one year ago. Common stock prices showed continued reaction, the index declining about 1 per cent to 76.8, a decline of 21.7 per cent from a year ago having been indicated. Recessions from the preceding week were practically general in each of the groups of the official classification. Speculative trading showed greater activity than in the preceding week, but a marked decline was recorded from the same period of 1940. Bank clearings showed gains over both periods normally quoted for comparison.

The weekly index based on the six above-mentioned factors was 108.3 in the last week of January against 107.7 in the preceding week and 105.1 in the same week of 1940. Advances of 0.6 per cent and 3.1 per cent were shown over the preceding week and the same week of last year, respectively.

A Weekly Index with Six Components on Basis 1926=100

Week Ending	Car loadings	Wholesale Prices	Capitalized Bond Yields 1	Bank Clearings 2	Prices of Common Stocks	Shares Traded	Weekly Index 3
Feb. 1, 1941	92.6	84.8	143.9	102.2	76.8	37.0	108.3
Jan. 25, 1941	91.5	84.8	144.1	98.9	77.9	31.0	107.7
Feb. 3, 1940	88.0	82.2	137.0	92.2	98.1	67.0	105.1

1. Present value of a fixed net income in perpetuity from Dominion long-term bonds. 2. 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. 3. 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 the half-yearly data in the inter-war period was eliminated from the composite and the resulting index expressed as a percentage of the average during the year 1926.

# Business Operations at High Level in December

Business operations continued at a high level in the last month of 1940, the index of the physical volume of business standing at 152.5 compared with 133.3 in the same month of the preceding year. The gain of more than 14 per cent reflects the influence of war demands. The standing of the index in November having been 157.4, a recession of 3.1 per cent was indicated for the last month of the year. Electric power and distribution of the main components recorded advances in December over the preceding month.

The level of manufacturing production was practically maintained, the index standing at 156.6 against 157.2 in the preceding month. A decline was shown in the average of factors indicating the trend of mineral production and in the new business obtained by the construction industry. The index of electric power advanced from 240.7 to 243.8. Important decline was shown in exports of merchandise, excluding gold, while imports recorded a marked gain after seasonal adjustment, the index moving up about 30 points to 146.8. The adjusted index of trade employment advanced from 146.5 at the beginning of December to 152.1 at the end of the month.

The index of producers' goods and munitions receded considerably in December from the high level of November. An index of the output of consumers' goods, on the other hand, rose from 135.6 to 140.1.

The index of agricultural marketings rose from 82.0 in November to 113.8 in the month under review, advance having been shown both in grain and livestock sales. The index of grain marketings was 117.5 in December against 78.7 in the preceding month, important increases having been shown after seasonal adjustment in the marketings of wheat, oats and flax. The index of livestock marketings increased 1 point to 97.3, further advance having been shown in the disposal of hogs. Cattle marketings were practically maintained while some decline was shown in the sale of sheep.

## Business Indexes in December 1940 compared with November

	1940	
	December	November
Physical Volume of Business .....	152.5	157.4
Industrial Production .....	159.5	168.8
Mineral Production .....	219.2	231.0
Gold, Mint receipts .....	341.6	392.9
Silver shipments .....	82.9	50.6
Asbestos exports .....	90.4	101.4
Coal production .....	98.9	100.2
Manufacturing .....	156.6	157.2
Foodstuffs .....	132.4	138.8
Flour production .....	-	73.3
Oatmeal production .....	-	19.0
Sugar manufactured .....	120.2	135.3
Inspected slaughterings .....	216.2	230.4
Cattle .....	161.3	158.9
Sheep .....	151.0	157.9
Hogs .....	265.3	284.6
Creamery butter .....	166.5	157.8
Factory cheese .....	92.8	76.0
Salmon exports .....	161.7	36.8
Tobacco .....	211.8	217.7
Cigar releases .....	138.0	88.1
Cigarette releases .....	254.4	276.8
Rubber imports .....	536.8	282.7
Boots and shoes production .....	-	148.2
Textiles .....	195.1	161.2
Cotton consumption .....	199.1	168.7
Cotton yarn imports .....	153.7	103.1
Wool imports .....	192.6	148.0
Forestry .....	140.0	146.7
Newsprint .....	166.8	172.1
Woodpulp exports .....	98.0	102.9
Planks and boards exports .....	125.5	153.3
Shingles exported .....	52.3	72.2
Iron and Steel .....	160.6	167.4
Steel production .....	291.2	287.1
Pig Iron production .....	170.7	185.1
Iron and Steel imports .....	199.0	164.3
Automobile production .....	113.2	136.3

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Business Indexes in December 1940 compared with November

	1940	
	December	November
Coke Production .....	156.2	155.8
Crude Petroleum Imports .....	258.1	297.2
Construction .....	99.2	150.6
Contracts awarded .....	113.0	173.4
Building permits .....	64.7	93.6
Cost of Construction .....	98.7	98.8
Electric Power .....	243.8	240.7
Distribution .....	132.3	124.5
Trade Employment .....	152.1	146.5
Carloadings .....	95.6	87.7
Imports .....	146.8	116.6
Exports (excluding gold) .....	118.9	130.2
Producers' Goods .....	145.6	158.2
Consumers' Goods .....	140.1	135.6
Marketings -		
Grain and Live Stock Marketings .....	113.8	82.0
Grain Marketings .....	117.5	78.7
Wheat .....	117.8	75.1
Oats .....	168.0	93.7
Barley .....	79.5	128.1
Flax .....	134.1	26.3
Rye .....	70.5	196.1
Live Stock Marketings .....	97.3	96.3
Cattle .....	85.2	85.6
Calves .....	125.3	143.4
Hogs .....	115.5	105.5
Sheep .....	92.1	120.7
Cold Storage Holdings .....	166.3	160.2
Eggs .....	115.5	90.2
Butter .....	226.7	210.4
Cheese .....	117.6	100.0
Beef .....	133.7	128.3
Pork .....	196.2	195.5
Mutton .....	106.8	110.9
Poultry .....	181.5	195.3
Lard .....	136.1	111.2
Veal .....	279.2	311.4

Sales of New Motor Vehicles in December

Sales of new motor vehicles, excluding deliveries to the government for war purposes, were considerably higher in December, the total being 10,920 valued at \$13,192,197 compared with 9,147 at \$11,091,975 in November and 9,844 at \$10,943,750 in December, 1939. Total sales of new vehicles during the year numbered 130,917 units with a retail value of \$149,165,627, 14 per cent in number and 18 per cent in value above the 114,747 new vehicles sold for \$125,967,521 in 1939.

Canada 1941

The publication is announced by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics of the 1941 edition of the Official Handbook of "Canada".

"Canada 1941" 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. So far as space permits, 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 three double-page inserts (one of which is in colour) and one triple-page insert.

The Introduction is a short review of current developments at the close of 1940, with special reference to Canada's War Programme as described by the Prime Minister and other

Ministers of the Crown in recent addresses. Special Articles follow this Introduction and deal with the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and its place in the development of the Canadian West. The first Article describes the inception of the Plan, its administration, the types of aircraft used and the training of the young flier. The second Article covers the story of the Police from the early days of western settlement to the present and the coloured insert depicts the coronation reception of Their Majesties by the Plains Indians at Calgary.

The economic survey is covered in sixteen chapters dealing with population, production, internal and external trade, transportation, education, etc.

The price of the publication is 25 cents per copy, which charge covers merely the cost of paper and actual press work. Application for regular priced copies should be made to the King's Printer, Ottawa.

A special price concession has been authorized in the case of teachers, bona fide students, and ministers of religion, since past experience has shown that considerable use has been made of this publication for educational purposes, and it is the policy of the Minister to encourage such use. To such individuals, therefore, the price is set at 10 cents for one copy. Application for copies under this Special Distribution should be addressed to the Dominion Statistician, Ottawa.

Postage stamps are not acceptable, and applications must be accompanied by a postal note or by the appropriate coin enclosed between two squares of thin cardboard gummed together at the edges.

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#### Production of Petroleum and Natural Gas

The Canadian production of crude petroleum and natural gasoline during October totalled 817,596 barrels compared with 841,752 in the preceding month and 816,257 in October, 1939. During the ten months ending October, 1940, the output aggregated 7,086,161 barrels compared with 6,603,374 in the corresponding period of 1939.

Natural gas production in October amounted to 2,543,995,000 cubic feet compared with 1,782,514,000 in September and 2,804,070,000 in October, 1939. During the first ten months of 1940, the Canadian production aggregated 27,646,458,000 cubic feet as compared with 27,731,938,000 in the like period of 1939.

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#### World Shipments of Wheat

World shipments of wheat during the week ending February 1 amounted to 4,744,000 bushels as compared with 4,405,000 in the previous week and 8,868,000 in the corresponding week in 1940. Cumulative world shipments from August 1 to February 1 amounted to 124,899,000 bushels as compared with 256,584,000 in the corresponding period of the previous crop year.

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#### Flour Production in December

The production of flour in December amounted to 1,076,132 barrels compared with 1,599,966 in December, 1939, and compared with the ten-year average production of 1,087,500. The percentage of output to capacity for the latest month dropped to 47.6 from 70.8 in 1939. Production of flour during the calendar year 1940 aggregated 16,254,921 barrels compared with 16,887,070 in 1939.

Flour exports in December amounted to 345,611 barrels compared with 902,714 in the same month of 1939. Exports for the calendar year 1940 totalled 6,970,902 barrels compared with 5,342,172 in 1939, while in the first five months of the crop year 1940-41, 2,905,032 barrels were exported as against 2,715,497 in the same period of the previous crop year.

Cereal production for December 1940 was as follows, with figures for the same month last year in brackets and the quantities in pounds: oatmeal, 1,336,850(1,838,664); rolled oats 6,461,082(17,595,082); corn flour and meal, 2,125,326(1,240,680); pot and pearl barley 162,002(317,079); and buckwheat flour 179,014(384,258).

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### Wheat Stocks in Store

Canadian wheat in store on January 31 amounted to 493,552,592 bushels compared with 495,841,577 on January 24 and 335,636,331 on February 2, 1940. The amount in store in elevators in Canada on the latest date was 445,152,800 bushels compared with 446,571,224 a week ago and 301,433,897 in 1940. The stocks of Canadian wheat in the United States on January 31 totalled 48,399,791 bushels compared with 49,270,353 on January 24 and 34,202,434 in 1940.

### Overseas Export Clearances of Wheat

During the week ending January 31, the export clearances overseas of Canadian wheat amounted to 3,425,629 bushels compared with 3,744,769 in the corresponding week in 1940. During the 26 weeks ending January 31 the accumulated shipments were 50,669,884 bushels as compared with 71,746,224 in the corresponding period of the previous crop year.

### Primary Movement of Wheat

Wheat receipts in the Prairie Provinces during the week ending January 31 amounted to 3,273,606 bushels compared with 5,440,489 in the previous week and 900,085 in the corresponding week last year. Receipts for the latest week follow, with 1940 figures in brackets: Manitoba, 309,613 (41,854) bushels; Saskatchewan, 1,565,310 (381,577); Alberta, 1,398,183 (476,654).

Marketings in the three Prairie Provinces for the 26 weeks ending January 31 aggregated 305,478,359 bushels as compared with 367,723,766 in the corresponding period of the previous crop year. Totals follow by provinces, with 1940 figures in brackets: Manitoba, 40,942,551 (49,555,137) bushels; Saskatchewan, 162,571,024 (205,566,047); Alberta, 101,964,784 (112,490,243).

### Output of Refined Sugar in 1940

During the calendar year 1940 Canada's ten sugar refineries manufactured 1,137,792,237 pounds of refined sugar, an increase of 12,300,370 pounds over the output recorded in 1939. The stocks of refined sugar at the end of 1940, with small amounts purchased, amounted to 278,542,439 pounds compared with 248,461,420 at the end of 1939. Stocks of raw sugar on the last day of 1940 totalled 140,970,614 pounds as against 74,526,150 on December 31, 1939.

### Production of Hogs

The number of hogs on farms in Canada at December 1, 1940, was the highest ever recorded, the total being 6,117,200, an increase of 28 per cent over the number reported on the same date in 1939 and exceeds the total at June 1, 1940, by 235,000. The greatest increases in numbers have occurred in Alberta, Ontario and Saskatchewan.

Anticipation of a greater demand for bacon and pork products as a result of the war and relatively favourable prices for hogs are responsible for the greatly increased production. In addition, the feed situation has been improved during the past two years by good yields of feed grain crops. Expansion in production has been greatest in western Canada where surplus feed grains were available. The declines in production in Quebec and the Maritime Provinces in 1941 resulted from higher feed prices in relation to the prices of hogs.

A further increase in the production of hogs is anticipated in 1941 if farmers' intentions as reported at the first of December 1940 are carried out. It is expected that the spring pig crop will be about two per cent greater than the spring pig crop of 1940. Increases in the spring pig crop will occur in Ontario, the Prairie Provinces and British Columbia. In Quebec and the Maritime Provinces, smaller spring pig crops are reported than in 1940.

Marketings and farm slaughter of hogs for the period December 1940 to May 1941 will be 35 per cent greater than in the corresponding period of 1939-40, if farmers' intentions are carried out. Increases in marketings in this period are anticipated in all provinces with the greatest gain in the Prairie Provinces.



### January Employment Situation

Employment at the first of January in the years since 1920 has invariably shown curtailment, resulting from the completion or suspension of outdoor work in construction and other highly seasonal industries, together with the losses occasioned by establishments closing over the holidays and for inventories and repairs. Information received for January 1, 1941, from 12,467 employers reveals a total staff of 1,316,774, a reduction of 47,827 from the preceding month. This was a decline of 3.5 per cent, which is the smallest percentage contraction at the opening of any year in the period of observation. For January 1, 1940, 11,891 employers furnished returns showing that they had an aggregate staff of 1,134,500 men and women.

Based on the 1926 average as 100, the crude index stood at 134.2, as compared with 139.1 at the beginning of December. The latest figure is 15 $\frac{1}{2}$  p.c. above the January 1, 1940, index of 116.2, the previous high figure for that date. Since the shrinkage at the beginning of January, 1941, was considerably below normal, the seasonally-corrected index showed an increase, rising from 135.8 at December 1, 1940 to 139.4 at the date under review. The latter figure is the highest seasonally-adjusted index on record.

While there were declines in employment in many industries and areas at January 1, 1941, these were not so widespread as has been customary in other winters. The distribution of the losses among the various industries also differed from that usually indicated. Thus, on the average, the number laid off by factories at the beginning of January in the period, 1921-1940, has constituted just under 55 p.c. of the total reduction reported by the firms furnishing returns, and that in construction, some 30 p.c., the remaining 15 p.c. being in transportation, mining, etc. At the date under review, however, the number of persons released from work in manufacturing was only about 24 p.c., while that in construction approximated 58 p.c. of the total number laid off. The increase in the proportion shown by the latter industry was not so much due to an unusually large falling-off in construction, as to the fact that the declines in certain other industries, particularly manufacturing, were below normal. On the other hand, logging reported a reduction that exceeded the average.

The curtailment of operations in manufacturing involved a smaller number of workers than in any other January on record; approximately 11,600 men and women were released from employment in these industries, a decrease of 1.6 p.c. from the preceding month. This compared favourably with the average shrinkage of over 7 p.c. at January 1 in the years since 1920. The crude index declined from its all-time high of 144.7 at December 1, 1940, to 142.5 at the date under review. It was then higher than in any other month in the period of observation, except in the final quarter of last year. The seasonally-corrected index at January 1, 1941, stood at 152.0, rising from 146.4 in the preceding month. These two adjusted figures are the highest on record.

There were considerable gains at the date under review in iron and steel and tobacco factories; electrical apparatus, non-ferrous metal and chemical works were also busier. The general trend in the remaining manufacturing industries was downward. The most pronounced reductions were in the food, lumber, textile and pulp and paper divisions.

### Canada's External Trade in 1940

Canada's external trade in 1940, excluding gold, aggregated \$2,275,155,708, the highest point reached since 1929 when the value was \$2,477,335,139. The 1939 valuation was \$1,686,977,247. The balance of trade was favourable to Canada to the extent of \$111,279,476 in 1940 compared with \$184,866,179 in 1939. Duties collected during the year totalled \$138,972,091 compared with \$103,282,895 in 1939.

Domestic exports in 1940, excluding gold, totalling \$1,178,954,420, were the greatest recorded since 1928 when the value was \$1,339,409,562. The 1939 value was \$924,926,104. Imports also moved considerably higher, amounting in value to \$1,081,938,116 compared with \$751,055,534. The previous peak was in 1929 when the value was \$1,298,992,692.

### Index Numbers of Living Costs in December

The Dominion Bureau of Statistics index number of living costs on the base 1935-1939=100, rose from 107.8 in November to 108.0 in December. Prices for foods and home-furnishings averaged higher. In December 1939 the index number was 103.8.



An index for 46 foods advanced from 108.7 in November to 109.1 in December. Dairy products, cereals, and vegetables recorded gains, while meats and fruits averaged lower. Moderate advances for furniture, floor coverings, textile furnishings, hardware, dishes and household cleaning supplies, resulted in a rise in the homefurnishings group from 110.0 to 110.7.

Living cost indexes during 1940 rose gradually by four per cent from 103.8 in January to 108.0 in December. Indexes for the various groups recorded the following increases between January and December, 1940: foods 4.4 per cent, rent 3.2 per cent, fuel 2.8 per cent, clothing 9.9 per cent, homefurnishings 6.1 per cent and miscellaneous items 1.0 per cent.

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#### Indexes of Country General Store Sales

Country general store sales averaged four per cent higher in December 1940 than last, according to returns received from approximately 700 of these general merchandise stores located in the smaller towns and rural areas. Gains over December 1939 were reported by all regions of the country except Saskatchewan. Annual sales for 1940 averaged six per cent higher than in 1939.

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#### Index Numbers of Retail Sales in December

Heavy consumer demand for electrical appliances and equipment in anticipation of higher prices arising from import restrictions and new taxation schedules constitutes the outstanding feature of the retail trade of Canada during December, 1940. Composite figures for the twelve lines of business included in the survey averaged 11 per cent above the level of December 1939 and 28 per cent above November, 1940. The general index of retail sales on the base 1930 equals 100, stands at 135.0 for the latest month, 105.8 for November and 122.1 for December, 1939. Cumulative figures for 1940 averaged 12 per cent above 1939.

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#### Wholesale Sales in December

Heavy buying in the wholesale automotive equipment and hardware trades together with less pronounced but substantial increases in the other lines of business included in the survey resulted in an average gain of 19 per cent in dollar sales of wholesale merchants in December 1940 compared with 1939. This is the largest percentage increase over 1939 recorded since the first two months of the year and compares with an increase of 11 per cent in the annual totals for 1940 compared with 1939. The general index of sales on the base 1930=100 stands at 116.4 for December 1940, 122.9 for November and 98.2 for December 1939.

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#### City Retail Food Price Indexes

In September and October 1939, retail food prices rose abruptly in all parts of Canada. From November 1939 until September 1940, city retail food price indexes either showed very little change or declined moderately. In the final quarter of 1940 retail food price averages turned upward again rather sharply.

The net result of changes between August 1939 and December 1940 may be observed in the following percentage increases recorded for eight city indexes: Halifax 15.2 p.c., Saint John 12.4 p.c., Montreal 10.5 p.c., Toronto 7.6 p.c., Winnipeg 10.2 p.c., Saskatoon 12.1 p.c., Edmonton 9.8 p.c., and Vancouver 9.1 p.c. Increases in the two Maritime cities have been materially above average, and the Toronto increase somewhat less than average. Otherwise the advances were closely grouped around 10 p.c.,

Throughout the period August 1939 to December 1940, none of the individual city indexes differed from the Dominion average index by as much as 7 p.c. If Halifax were excluded the maximum difference would never have reached 5 p.c., and presumably differences in complete cost of living indexes would have been still less.

The preceding comments have been based upon newly constructed index numbers of retail prices for foods in eight cities which are of outstanding importance as distributing centres. These indexes mark the first stage in a programme of regional cost of living indexes.



### Consumption of Dairy Products

The disappearance of creamery and dairy butter in Canada reached a total of 362.1 million pounds in 1939, accounting for about 97.6 per cent of the total production. The per capita consumption was 32 pounds. The domestic disappearance of cheese was less than 40 million pounds in 1939, and differing from butter represented only about 32.3 per cent of the total make. The per capita consumption in 1939 was 3.53 pounds, a figure which has varied very little from year to year.

Approximately 142 million pounds of concentrated milk products were used in Canada in 1939 compared with less than 79 million in 1930. The former represented 84.5 per cent of the total output and 12.56 pounds in consumption per capita. About 71.6 per cent was used in the Dominion in 1930, with a per capita consumption of only 7.72 pounds. The per capita consumption of ice cream has increased considerably in recent years. In 1939 it was estimated at 0.75 gallons whereas in 1933 it was only 0.53 gallons.

The consumption of fresh milk, together with cream expressed as milk, reached a total of 4.6 million pounds or 3.6 billion pints in 1939. This represented a daily consumption for the whole of Canada of 0.87 pints per person. It is important to observe that the milk producers supplying their own homes consumed 1.25 pints per day while those required to purchase their supply averaged only 0.74 pints per day. This explains in some measure the variations in the total consumption in the different sections of the Dominion.

### Production of Leading Mineral Products

Production of Canada's leading mineral products during the ten months ending October 1940 was as follows, with corresponding figures for 1939 in brackets: asbestos, 283,927 (291,510) tons; cement 6,627,710 (5,104,383) barrels; clay products \$4,414,475 (\$4,257,307); coal 13,965,293 (12,465,993) tons; feldspar 18,600 (8,857) tons; gold 4,402,782 (4,234,846) fine ounces; gypsum 1,276,649 (1,097,950) tons; lime 594,852 (435,000) tons; natural gas, 27,646,458,000 (27,731,938,000) cubic feet; petroleum 7,086,161 (6,603,374) barrels; commercial salt 194,987 (209,835) tons; silver 19,293,224 (19,320,562) fine ounces.

### Traffic on Railways in October

Revenue freight loaded at Canadian stations and received from foreign connections during October amounted to 9,545,760 tons as against 9,932,863 in October 1939. The decrease was all in agricultural products, this group declining by 36 per cent. Movement of freight was as follows, by classification, with October 1939 figures in brackets: agricultural 1,916,328 (2,853,787) tons; animal 233,716 (288,771) tons; mine 3,643,790 (3,610,299); forest 1,066,619 (893,227); manufactures and miscellaneous 2,685,307 (2,346,779).

### Telephones in Canada

Canada had 1,397,272 telephones in service at the end of 1939, and an average of 12.35 telephones per 100 of population. Compared with 1938 data from other countries Canada was fifth in total number and fourth in density, the higher ranking countries being the United States with a total of 19,953,263, Germany with 4,146,489, Great Britain and Northern Ireland with 3,220,241 and France with 1,589,595, and the United States with an average of 15.37 per 100 population, Sweden with an average of 12.73 and New Zealand with an average of 12.69.

Approximately 68 per cent of all telephones were residence telephones and the remaining 32 per cent were business telephones including public pay stations. Approximately 36 per cent of the total were business and residence telephones on individual lines and 19 per cent were on private branch exchanges or extensions which might be considered in somewhat the same class as individual line telephones, raising the percentage to 55. Two-party line telephones constituted 24 per cent of the total and telephones on lines accommodating more than four telephones per line, which are classed as rural, were 18 per cent of the total. Four-party line telephones and public pay station telephones which are on individual lines made up the remaining three per cent.

### Births, Deaths and Marriages in December

The number of births registered in 65 cities and towns in Canada having a population of 10,000 and over was 8,015 in December, deaths 5,369 and marriages 4,054 as compared with 6,411 births, 4,404 deaths and 4,909 marriages in December last year, showing increases of 25 per cent in births, 22 per cent in deaths and a decrease of 17½ per cent in marriages.



During the year 1940 births registered in the same cities and towns totalled 96,756 deaths 54,686, and marriages 63,140 as against 86,045 births, 52,484 deaths and 51,451 marriages in 1939. This comparison shows increases of  $12\frac{1}{2}$  per cent in births, four per cent in deaths and 23 per cent in marriages.

#### Stocks of Raw Hides and Skins in December

Stocks of raw cattle hides held by tanners, packers and dealers in Canada amounted to 627,283 at the end of December, compared with 609,294 at the end of November and 623,032 at the end of October. Stocks on the latest date were made up of 543,819 hides of domestic origin and 83,464 of foreign origin.

The stocks of calf and kip skins on hand decreased from 650,398 at the end of November to 590,962 at the end of December. Stocks of other types of skins at the end of December included 68,867 dozen sheep and lamb skins, 86,802 goat and kid skins and 30,392 horse hides.

#### Reports Issued During the Week

1. Survey of Hog Production, December 1, 1940 (10 cents).
2. Sales of New Motor Vehicles, December (10 cents).
3. Indexes of Wholesale Sales, December (10 cents).
4. Indexes of Retail Sales, December (10 cents).
5. Higher Education in Canada, 1938-40 (35 cents).
6. Advance Preliminary Statement of Stocks of Canadian, Butter, Cheese and Eggs in Principal Cities, February 1, 1941 (10 cents).
7. Milling Statistics, December (10 cents).
8. Canadian Grain Statistics (10 cents).
9. Petroleum and Natural Gas Production, October; and Gasoline Sales, September (10 cents).
10. Summary of Canada's Imports, December (10 cents).
11. The January-Employment Situation, 1941 (10 cents).
12. Canada 1941.
13. Dairying Statistics, Canada, 1939 (25 cents).
14. City Index Numbers of Retail Food Prices, 1935-1940 (10 cents).
15. Trade of Canada, December (10 cents).
16. Car Loadings (10 cents).
17. Telephone Statistics, 1939 (25 cents).
18. Imports by Principal Countries, December (10 cents).
19. The Railway Rolling Stock Industry, 1939 (25 cents).
20. Security Prices and Foreign Exchange (10 cents).
21. Monthly Indexes of Country General Store Sales, December (10 cents).
22. Prices and Price Indexes, December (10 cents).
23. Births, Deaths and Marriages, December (10 cents).
24. Stocks of Raw Hides and Skins, December (10 cents).
25. Current Trends in Food Distribution, December (10 cents).
26. Ice Cream Production in Canada, 1939 (15 cents).
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32. Summary of Sugar Reports, 1940 (50 cents).
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