

UNITED STATES AND CANADIAN CANAL TRAFFIC

Seventy-nine Per Cent. of Commodities Transported Originated from States—Distribution of Water-borne Wheat

Since 1908 a record of the country origin of business passing through the canals of Canada and various facts with respect to the traffic of all the canals has been kept, and the comptroller of statistics, Mr. J. L. Payne, gives these particulars in the following tabular statement:—

Year	Canadian Vessels		U.S. Vessels		Freight Tonnage		
	No.	Tonnage	No.	Tonnage	Canadian	United States	Total
1908.....	29,040	6,780,789	7,481	4,835,320	5,012,147	12,490,673	17,502,820
1909.....	22,507	7,811,578	9,996	16,459,322	7,378,057	26,342,691	33,720,748
1910.....	25,337	8,931,790	11,462	21,777,297	7,883,614	35,106,994	42,990,608
1911.....	25,585	9,172,192	10,370	18,231,672	7,792,907	30,237,446	38,030,353

It will be observed that of all the commodities transported through the canals of Canada in 1911, the proportion originating in the United States was 79.5 per cent. In 1910 the proportion was 81.6 per cent. This large difference in favor of the United States is almost wholly accounted for in the volume of ore passed through the canal at Sault Ste. Marie.

With regard to vessel tonnage, the proportions in 1911 stood as follows:—Canadian, 33.5 per cent.; United States, 66.5 per cent.

Transportation of Canadian Wheat.

With the development of the Western Provinces there has been a steady growth in the volume of waterborne wheat. Since 1895 the quantities annually brought down through the canal at Sault Ste. Marie are shown in the following table:—

1895	4,518,334
1896	19,314,234
1897	17,925,834
1898	9,746,600
1899	12,759,034
1900	9,292,034
1901	9,639,534
1902	27,912,500
1903	32,233,934
1904	29,794,100
1905	25,983,100
1906	34,389,300
1907	49,399,967
1908	58,574,034
1909	*48,047,833
1910	51,774,833
1911	63,641,000

*For the first time represents Canadian wheat only. The figures of preceding years include American wheat which passed through the Canadian canal.

The figures for the years anterior to 1909 include American wheat. It will be observed, however, that the increase in 1911 over 1909, applicable only to Canadian wheat, amounted to 15,593,167 bushels, or 32.4 per cent.

In addition to the 63,641,000 bushels of Canadian wheat which passed through the Canadian canal at Sault Ste. Marie, 1,981,481 bushels of Canadian wheat passed through the United States canal at that point. These figures combined show that the volume of water-borne Canadian wheat in 1911 was 65,622,481 bushels. Account is not taken of the relatively small quantity of wheat which was moved through any of the other canals. It is quite relevant, however, to point out that 183,449 barrels of Canadian flour were carried through the Canadian canal at Sault Ste. Marie in 1911, and 841,733 barrels of Canadian flour through the American canal. Calculating this Canadian flour into wheat, we have an addition of 4,100,728 bushels to the volume already indicated, bringing the total up to 69,723,209 bushels.

Some Analytical Methods Applied.

Last year, for the first time, a careful study was made of the distribution of Canadian wheat after it had passed through the canal at Sault Ste. Marie, and this year the same analytical methods have been applied to the traffic of 1911. Placing the figures for 1909, 1910 and 1911 side by side, for purposes of easy comparison, the record is as follows:—

Canadian Wheat.	1909.	1910.	1911.
	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.
Fort William to Montreal ..	10,517,266	13,185,370	12,761,666
“ “ “ Georgian Bay ..	13,384,400	12,753,200	9,881,234
Fort William to other Canadian ports ..	10,149,633	9,603,400	11,880,666

Canadian Wheat	1909.	1910.	1911.
Fort William to Buffalo....	12,841,334	15,693,363	27,945,600
Duluth to Montreal	520,000	315,000	
“ “ Buffalo	528,200	224,500	710,334
“ “ Georgian Bay ..	28,000		461,500
“ “ other Canadian ports	79,000		
Total	48,047,833	51,774,833	63,641,000
Through American canal ..	9,117,328	5,321,446	1,981,481
Grand total	57,165,161	57,096,279	65,622,481

It should be explained, perhaps, that the “other Canadian ports” indicated in the foregoing statement are ports west of Lake Erie, but not on the Georgian Bay.

Passed Through Canadian Canal.

It is quite impracticable to follow the course of the small volume of Canadian wheat which passed through the American canal at Sault Ste. Marie. With respect to that which passed through the Canadian canal, however, the figures work out in the following percentages:—

	1909.	1910.	1911.
	%	%	%
Fort William to Montreal	21.9	25.5	20.1
“ “ “ Georgian Bay	27.9	24.6	15.6
“ “ “ other Canadian ports..	21.1	18.5	18.7
“ “ “ Buffalo	26.7	30.3	43.8
Duluth to Canadian ports	1.3	.6	.7
“ “ American ports	1.1	.5	1.1

It will be seen that 54.4 per cent. of all the Canadian wheat which came down in 1911 through the Canadian canal at Sault Ste. Marie clung exclusively to Canadian channels. The proportion in 1910 was 68.6 per cent.; so that the diversion to American channels was considerably greater in 1911.

BUILDING CONSTRUCTION ACTIVE

According to reports from official sources compiled by the Contract Record the building operations in twenty-seven Canadian cities for the first half-year, totalled \$69,583,674, twenty-eight per cent. more than for the same period in 1911. As illustrating the steady growth of the country the journal points to the fact that the buildings erected in 1911 exceeded in value those of 1910 by 29 per cent.

The buildings for the month of June alone represented an expenditure of \$17,645,709, as compared with \$12,346,908 in June, 1911.

Toronto is in the lead with a six-months' record of \$13,195,271. Winnipeg's figures are \$11,205,600. Vancouver, with an expenditure of \$8,132,720, is \$65,000 ahead of Montreal, and Edmonton is not far behind with \$7,725,622.

Edmonton's expenditure shows the remarkable gain of 376 per cent., Stratford showed a gain of 278 per cent., Brantford 133, Fort William 132, Port Arthur 124, Nelson 118.

The building returns for six months of 1912 and the same period of 1911 are as follows:—

	1912.	1911.
Toronto	\$13,195,271	\$11,939,953
Winnipeg	11,205,600	9,058,150
Vancouver	8,132,720	9,191,524
Montreal	8,065,993	7,306,136
Edmonton	7,725,622	1,620,431
Saskatoon	4,634,685	2,574,441
Hamilton	3,145,600	2,246,780
Regina	2,549,770	2,936,930
Ottawa	2,120,000	1,393,370
Fort William	1,743,425	750,075
Maisonneuve	817,428	748,900
New Westminster	785,578	613,580
Lethbridge	719,343	528,950
Port Arthur	700,994	312,985
Brantford	657,230	282,228
London	509,598	458,423
Windsor	433,830	306,705
St. Boniface	395,530	467,880
Berlin	332,950	242,585
St. John	315,950	211,700
Sydney	254,616	282,052
Kingston	224,059	133,223
Galt	204,032	163,920
Nelson	198,015	90,705
Stratford	202,791	53,500
Peterborough	188,858	186,786
Welland	124,186	