

purchase of personal equipment, furniture, etc., totalling at the end of 1943, \$2,000,000,000.

Beginning the war with an aircraft industry capacity of about 1,000 persons, now about 125,000 (of which 30,000 are women) are employed. Problems of looking up for new types of aircraft and of changing them out by mass production have now largely been overcome.

Average plane production increased from 325 a month last spring to an average of 430 for December, January and February of this year. The actual increase in poundage production is 30%.

Of the 11,300 planes produced since the beginning of the war, more than 2,000 have been first-line service aircraft.

Canada's shipbuilding record is as follows:

Type of vessel	Delivered to end of 1943	Schedule for 1944
4,700-ton cargo vessels	12	18
10,000-ton cargo vessels	23	102
Freighters	78	11
Wooden minesweepers	34	42
Steel minesweepers	92	29
Single screw destroyers	104	18
Trigates	28	44

In addition to the figures quoted for ships delivered, 75 vessels of these types have been launched and are now being completed. The number of landing craft delivered under this program is 2,000 and will be increased.

Of the cargo vessels, 24, 10,000-tonners and 12, 4,700-tonners have remained in Canadian service; the balance have gone to the United Kingdom, the United States and Australia.

A high rate of production of armored fighting vehicles will be maintained during 1944, and general transport units will be of heavier type. Locomotives for shipment overseas are now being produced at the rate of 24 a month.

The total number of Bren guns produced in Canada to date is 125,000. Two types of Canadian anti-aircraft guns as well as six pound anti-tank guns are being shipped to China.

Canadian chemists have discovered the most effective method of manufacturing RDX, the new super-explosive, and have devised important changes in the manufacture of TNT.

The problem of producing sufficient synthetic rubber to avoid shortages which would have crippled Canada's production has been overcome. The Polymer Corporation, a crown company in Sarnia, Ontario, is now in production of Buna-S type rubber at the rate of 2,500 tons a month and butyl rubber at 150 tons a month. This plant has no important synthetic rubber as its products are the ingredients of synthetic rubber and also manufacturing the finished synthetic. The expected increase in production in 1944 will give the great relief to civilians.

Most of the estimated 500,000 tires will be on military vehicles. These tires are said to be about 80% as efficient as raw rubber tires.

Canada's other natural sources of wealth are agricultural lands, forests, fisheries and water-power sites. Due to the war, Canada has rapidly changed over from being a producer of foodstuffs and raw materials to an industrial nation of major importance. Ranking third in the world in the production of foodstuffs and fourth in the production of war supplies, Canada's export trade is now the fourth largest in the world.