

In April, 1944, demand for Canadian-made artillery ammunition increased substantially. Large orders for shells, cartridge cases, fuses and other components have been placed. The expanded ammunition program called for the employment of an estimated 10,000 additional workers in the plants and will result in a considerable increase over the total 1943 output of 30,000,000 rounds of heavy ammunition and 40,000,000 cartridge cases.

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 a shortage 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 counterpart anywhere as it produces all the ingredients of synthetic rubber and also manufactures the finished synthetics. The expected increase in production in 1944 will not give any great relief to civilians. Most of the estimated 900,000 tires will be on military vehicles. These tires are said to be about 80% as efficient as raw rubber tires.

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

Total trade (excluding gold):

1933	.....	\$	936,698,100
1940	.....		2,275,168,311
1941	.....		3,089,246,191
1942	.....		4,029,707,979
1943	.....		4,736,429,169

The expanding volume of Canada's exports is indicated by the following tabulation:

	Exports by Main Groups				
	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943
Agricultural and vegetable products (except chemicals, fibres and wood).....	\$220,118,056	\$218,263,811	\$285,708,739	\$257,778,304	\$483,756,894
Animals and animal products (except chemicals and fibres).....	\$131,803,706	\$164,723,794	\$201,730,555	\$256,725,462	\$289,566,02
Fibres, textiles and textile products.....	14,427,669	22,695,647	30,819,633	28,931,925	30,620,39
Wood, wood products and paper	242,541,043	348,006,396	387,113,232	389,805,396	391,069,65
Iron and its products.....	63,102,432	127,666,846	239,900,848	467,121,439	716,644,88
Non-ferrous metals and their products (except gold).....	182,890,103	194,711,984	244,012,336	308,903,239	332,704,96