

PRODUCTION BRIEFS

GAINS TO FISHERMEN: After the relatively quiet winter fishing season, operations on both coasts are now speeding up with the return of more favourable weather conditions. There was a substantial gain in returns to fishermen in April the landed value of all species amounting to \$2,378,000 as compared with \$1,694,000 in the corresponding month last year. During the first four months of this year the value was \$8,045,000 as compared with \$5,293,000 in the similar period of 1947.

On the Pacific Coast the successful winter herring fishery dominates the picture for the year to date. On the Atlantic Coast landings of cod, haddock pollock and other groundfish have been sharply higher with a corresponding gain in landed values. The lobster fishery has yielded approximately the same catch as during the first four months of 1947, but values are somewhat lower.

In the disposition of the 1948 catch of Atlantic Coast fish, more cod is being frozen and smoked in the filleted form than a year ago. The production of fillets of haddock and other groundfish has also been increased. Almost the entire lobster catch has been sold in the shell. Major adjustments on the west coast include the greater use of herring for reduction, and a switch from the canning of other shellfish to the sale of this product in the shucked meat form.

WAR ASSETS SALES \$430,175,000: Sales totaling \$6,197,600 during March and April have brought the grand total of receipts by War Assets Corporation from the disposal of war surplus to \$430,175,000 according to a statement issued by the Corporation.

Aggregate of sales to April 30, 1948, of principal commodities was, in round numbers, as follows:

Table with 2 columns: Category and Value. Rows include Ships and components (\$115,747,000), Automotive vehicles and equipment (66,074,000), Machinery and production equipment (60,455,000), Lands and Buildings (48,224,000), and Clothing and Textiles (35,469,000).

MOTOR VEHICLES: Factory shipments of Canadian-made motor vehicles in April totalled 24,243 units, down 11 per cent from the high total for March but up by a similar percentage over the April 1947 figure of 21,891 units. Shipments during the first four months of this year totalled 84,452 units compared with 83,413 in the corresponding period of 1947.

Shipments in April comprised 13,239 passenger units and 11,004 commercial vehicles, 10,960 of the former and 7,535 of the latter being intended for use in Canada, and the remainder for export. In the four-month period, 41,774 passenger cars and 25,618 commercial vehicles were shipped for sale in Canada, and 7,679 passenger units and 9,381 commercial vehicles were shipped for export.

WHEAT FLOUR: Production of wheat flour in April was recorded at 1,955,132 barrels compared with 2,399,074 in the corresponding month last year, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. During the first nine months of the current crop year, 18,791,322 barrels were produced compared with 21,131,119 barrels in the similar period of 1946-47.

SILVER, LEAD AND ZINC: Production of primary silver in all forms in Canada, amounted to 1,100,285 fine ounces in March, as compared with 1,035,568 in the preceding month and 1,048,002 in the corresponding month last year. The March output was the highest since August, 1946, when production totalled 1,155,447 fine ounces. During the first three months of this year, 3,094,079 fine ounces were produced as against 2,711,985 in the similar period of 1947.

Output of primary lead during March amounted to 12,477 tons compared with 12,966 tons in February and 14,425 tons in March, 1947. Total production for the three months ended March, amounted to 36,510 tons as against 39,637 tons in the like period of last year.

Primary zinc production in March aggregated 18,598 tons as against 17,527 tons in the preceding month and 16,963 tons in March, 1947. During the first quarter of this year, 53,291 tons were produced as compared with 50,508 in the same period of 1947.

LUMBER: Canadian production of sawn lumber in March amounted to 409,652 M feet board measure as compared with 395,275 M in the corresponding month last year, an increase of 3.6 per cent, according to estimates released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. During the first quarter of this year, 1,131,154 M feet were produced compared with 1,128,514 M in the similar period of 1947.

WHEAT STOCKS: Stocks of Canadian wheat in store or in transit in North America at midnight on May 20 totalled 59,409,000 bushels compared with 64,604,000 on May 13 and 84,287,000 on the corresponding date last year, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Deliveries of wheat from farms in the Prairie Provinces during the week ending May 20 amounted to 1,440,000 bushels as compared with 1,224,000 in the preceding week.

CURRENCY REGULATION: The Department of External Affairs announced June 1 that, according to information received from the Italian Legation in Ottawa, foreign tourists entering Italy are required to declare foreign currency in their possession.

The Italian customs authorities will supply the tourist with a certificate without which it will not be possible to re-export currency or to exchange it at Italian banks.

STUDY INSECT PESTS: The life habits of biting insect pests and various methods for their control will be thoroughly investigated by eight field parties now moving into the Canadian North, it was announced in Ottawa June 3 by the Defence Research Board. Laboratory investigation will be carried out at the same time at Fort Churchill.

Multitudes of biting insects are one of the great difficulties of life in the north and seriously retard development. It is hoped to compile complete information on the many different types of mosquitoes, black flies, and deer flies prevalent and at the same time investigate control methods. The whole project is coordinated by the Defence Research Board which is working in close cooperation with the Department of Agriculture.

The two or three-man insect survey parties will operate on the Alaska Highway, the Mackenzie River Delta, Southampton Island, Goose Bay, Ungava Bay, Frobisher Bay, and in the region of the new Quebec-Labrador iron mines. These parties will fly in and remain on the job until some time in August. They will be under control of Dr. T.N. Freeman, of Ottawa. Students or members of the faculties from Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Western Ontario, Toronto, McMaster and McGill Universities will take part in the work.

24-HOUR TIME TABLES

Their job is to collect insects, observe their breeding and biting habits, note the effects of weather and vegetation and generally compile 24-hour time tables of insect activities. Various repellents and control methods will be investigated and a newly designed pest-proof suit will be tried out.

Last year a spot check at Fort Churchill identified 10 biting types and various non-biting types of mosquitoes, 12 species of black flies and nine or ten deer fly types. It has been observed that the pests appear around the clock in shifts, one type swarming in when another type retires for rest.

The greatest trouble is in the barren lands. Here the insects move 10 to 25 miles and spraying methods are ineffective because new hordes move in as soon as an area is cleared. As a result of the surveys, an entomological map of the entire north country will be built up which will show all insect problems encountered in each area.

A second phase of this year's work will be centred at Fort Churchill where laboratory workers will study the life cycle of mosquitoes and flies, control methods, repellents and clothing, feeding habits and the effect of insect control measures on fish in the northern lakes. This work will be under Dr. C.R. Twinn, of the Department of Agriculture.

Longer range projects include such ideas as spraying snow in order to kill the insects as soon as the thaw comes. Scientific questions such as the toxicity of the different biters and the causes of natural immunity are matters

for future study. This raises the question of whether it is possible to create immunity in humans by artificial means.

CANAL TRAFFIC: Traffic using Canadian and United States locks of the Sault Ste. Marie Canals in April reached 8,464,763 tons compared with 4,766,544 tons in the corresponding month last year. Navigation opened April 2 through the larger U.S. locks compared with April 10 one year ago, while Canadian locks opened April 15 in both years. A very heavy movement of iron ore inaugurated the season when some 7,461,237 tons passed down -- more than double the traffic in April last year. Wheat, however, was off 85,371 tons. West-bound coal shipments were down 140,000 tons but stone rose 114,000 tons in the same direction.

April movement on the Welland Ship Canal amounted to 669,653 tons compared with 479,896 a year ago, an increase of 39.6 per cent. The canal opened on March 22, two days earlier than in 1947 but no freight was reported for March. Petroleum rose from 70,164 to 190,868 tons and gasoline from 54,000 to over 78,200 tons. Iron ore was 97,636 tons against none one year ago. Grain and coal movements were much lighter during the month.

Navigation on the St. Lawrence canals started April 17 compared with April 19 in 1947 but freight passing through the system declined from 206,335 tons in 1947 to 134,453 with the principal recession in soft coal shipments which dropped 76,377 tons to 31,944 for the month, due to the March 15 - April 13 strike in U.S. pits. Wheat was up 6,272 tons and paper 4,524 tons over the same month of 1947. The smaller canals, Richelieu, Ottawa, etc., reported increased traffic.

MAJOR GENERAL TICKELL A VISITOR: Major-General Sir Eustace F. Tickell, CB, CBE, MC, Engineer-in-Chief at the British War Office, will visit Ottawa on June 4 and 5 to confer with Army officials here, the Minister of National Defence announced. He will be accompanied by Colonel J.C. Walkey, CBE, of the British Army Staff, Washington, and Colonel Rowland D. Brown of the United States Army.

While in Ottawa Sir Eustace will visit the Chief of the General Staff and will confer with the Quartermaster-General and senior Canadian Army engineer officers. He will also meet Brig. J.L. Melville, Colonel Commandant of the Royal Canadian Engineers.

Maj.-Gen. Sir Eustace Tickell was commissioned in the Royal Engineers in 1913 and had a distinguished record during World War I. In the Second World War he was Chief Engineer British Troops, Egypt, in 1939, later became director of Works, Middle East, and finally became Engineer-in-Chief, Middle East, in January, 1944.