

Trade Conditions in Canada

(From the Canadian Bank of Commerce monthly letter.)

CROP CONDITIONS.

Indications are that the cereal crop of the Dominion will be quite as good, if not better, than that of a year ago. In the eastern provinces, favourable weather has resulted in satisfactory growth, and harvesting has already commenced. Threshing returns, it is fully expected, will show higher average yields than for some years. In some western districts, the crops are reported to be of an uneven character, but on the whole an average yield is expected. The yield of wheat will approximate that of last year, but that of some grains will be less.

WHEAT AND OTHER FOOD PRICES.

The Government has prohibited the export of the remainder of the 1916 wheat crop to the United States and has fixed a maximum price on the basis of \$2.40 for No. 1 Northern at Fort William. This maximum price is now being obtained. At the close of July the amount in terminal, interior terminal and public elevators was 11,844,303 bushels, as compared with 17,549,964 a year ago, and 2,324,881 in 1915. It has been officially announced that the Imperial authorities will provide tonnage to handle all available wheat. This will doubtless stimulate exports, which are already on a very large scale, amounting to \$244,394,586 for the twelve months ending March, as compared with \$172,896,445 and \$74,293,548 respectively, in 1916 and 1915. The value of wheat and wheat flour exported was \$281,000,000, or 25 per cent. of the total exports of Canadian produce. This extraordinarily high value is due to the advance in the price, which, in the case of this grain, is 92 per cent. higher than a year ago. The Index of the Department of Labour shows the following average increases in prices as compared with those of a year ago: All grains 63 per cent.; animal and meat products 15.3 per cent.; dairy products, 33 per cent.; all other foods 44 per cent. Wheat and fresh vegetables show the greatest advances.

LUMBERING AND SHIPBUILDING.

The value of the lumber, lath and shingles cut in 1916 was slightly less than in 1915, and amounted to \$66,072,222; of this \$58,365,349 represents lumber, of which 3,490,550 thousand feet board measure were cut as compared with 3,842,676 in 1915. In Eastern Canada the prospects for the lumber industry have been improved by the partial removal of the British embargo placed on shipments on private account. Canadian shipments are now permitted without licenses from the British Controller of Timber Supplies, when forwarded as deck cargoes. Purchases by the Imperial authorities have been insignificant in amount. Production has been limited by the enlistment of large numbers of men in forestry battalions for service in Great Britain and France. In spite of this decided handicap, and the resulting decline in quantity, the value of the output for the current year will probably be about the same as for last year.

In British Columbia the mills continue to operate as fully as the labour supply will permit. There is some increase in the local demand arising out of the improvement in general conditions, but the prevailing activity is sustained chiefly by orders from other provinces and from abroad.

The steel and wooden craft in course of construction at the present time in British Columbia yards are valued at \$20,000,000. Among the vessels being built are two for the Dominion Government, eight for the Imperial Government, four for Norwegian shipping houses and seven wooden schooners for the lumber trade. This activity had its inception not more than a year ago and its development has had a

very inspiring effect upon the business of the entire province. The traffic of the Port of Vancouver during the twelve months ending 31st March last, was the heaviest on record, the vessels entered inwards and outwards numbering 21,301, and registering 11,735,984 tons, as compared with 9,942,197 tons in 1916, and 10,347,563 tons in 1915.

PULP, PULP-WOOD AND PAPER.

The value of the exports of pulp, pulp-wood and paper for the twelve months ending 31st March was \$52,975,457 or 31.9 per cent. more than in the previous twelve months. The increase is due partly to the advance in price and partly to the increased output. In 1916, 2,833,119 cords of pulp-wood were produced, as compared with 2,355,550 cords in 1915. A noteworthy development of the past decade has been the steady gain in the quantity of wood manufactured into pulp, while the quantity of pulp-wood exported has remained stationary.

BRITISH COLUMBIA MINERAL OUTPUT.

The final returns of the British Columbia Department of Mines for the year 1916 show an output valued at \$42,290,462. Conditions were somewhat unsettled, as they have continued to be during the first half of the present year, but both the quantity and the value of the output are steadily increasing. Strikes of the employees in the coal mines have been the principal drawback, but at present conditions in this respect are fairly settled, and there is reason for hope that the returns for the current year will exceed those of last year.

The Provincial Mineralogist of British Columbia says: "Had it not been that the Crow's Nest Collieries through a series of mishaps—accompanied by a serious shortage of labour due to the war, followed by a labour strike—were unable to make as large an output as expected and intended, the coal and coke production would have been much greater; but as it was, there resulted such a shortage of coke as to partially close the copper smelters, and these in turn compelled the copper mines to very much curtail their outputs. But for these untoward circumstances, it is certain that the output for 1916 would have approached the \$50,000,000 mark."

MONTREAL STOCK EXCHANGE.

Iron was the big feature of the local market during the past week, furnishing 14,800 shares out of a total of 33,500. Accompanying this activity was a 5 point advance. The other stocks to show activity were Steel Company of Canada with 3,700 shares and a gain of 3 points, Canada Steamships, with transactions of 5,800 shares, and a gain of 2 points, and Brazilian and Quebec Railway.

On the whole the market broadened out considerably and gave some encouragement to the patient bulls who have been waiting many months for signs that will indicate an advance. The market, however, did not expand as they expected and the probabilities are that they will have to wait some time for a realization of their hopes.

Comparisons of the turnover on the Montreal Exchange last week, the week preceding and the corresponding week a year ago, follow:

	Aug. 25, 1917.	Aug. 18, 1917.	Aug. 28, 1916.
Shares ..	33,502	13,045	33,819
Bonds ..	\$265,700	\$457,300	\$260,400
Unlisted shares..	1,039	210	1,266



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OF CANADA
HEAD OFFICE - TORONTO

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E. C. Green, Manager, 186 St. James Street

THE

Molsons Bank

Incorporated by Act of Parliament 1855.

Paid-up Capital - \$4,000,000
Reserve Fund - \$4,800,000

Head Office - Montreal

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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S. H. Ewing - Vice-President
Geo. E. Drummond - F. W. Molson
W. A. Black - Wm. M. Birks
E. J. Chamberlin

Edward C. Pratt, General Manager

THE

Royal Bank of Canada

Incorporated 1869

Capital Authorized - \$25,000,000
Capital Paid up - \$12,900,000
Reserve Funds - \$14,300,000
Total Assets - \$270,000,000

HEAD OFFICE: MONTREAL

SIR HERBERT S. HOLT, President
F. L. PEASE, Vice-President and Managing Director
C. E. NEILL, General Manager

360 Branches in CANADA and NEWFOUNDLAND; 48 Branches in CUBA, PORTO RICO, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC COSTA RICO, VENEZUELA and BRITISH WEST INDIES

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THE

Dominion Savings AND Investment Society

Capital - \$1,000,000.00
Reserve - 250,000.00

Interest on Deposits, 3 1-2%
Interest on Debentures, 5%, payable half-yearly.

T. H. Purdom, K.C. Nathaniel Mills
President Managing Director

The Bank of Nova Scotia

DIVIDEND NO. 191.

Notice is hereby given that a Dividend at the rate of fourteen per cent. per annum on the paid-up Capital Stock of this Bank has been declared for the quarter ending September 30th, and that the same will be payable on and after Monday, the 1st day of October next, at any of the offices of the Bank. The Stock Transfer Book will be closed from the 17th to the 30th proximo, inclusive.

By order of the Board,
H. A. RICHARDSON,
General Manager.
Halifax, N.S., August 17th, 1917.