

Purchases of personal equipment, foodstuffs, miscellaneous stores, etc., totalled at the end of 1943, \$2,988,000,000.

Beginning the war with an aircraft industry employing about 1,000 persons, now about 122,000 (of which 39,000 are women) are employed. Problems of tooling up for new types of aircraft and of turning them out by mass production have now largely been overcome.

Average plane production increased from 324 a month last spring to an average of 436 for December, January and February of this year. The actual increase in poundage production is 50%

Of the 11,390 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 February, 1944	Schedule for 1944
Frigates	28	44
Single screw corvettes	104	18
Steel minesweepers	92	29
Wooden minesweepers	34	45
Fairmiles	78	11
10,000-ton cargo vessels	234	102
4,700-ton cargo vessels	15	18

In addition to the figures quoted for ships delivered, 75 vessels of these types have been launched and are now being outfitted. The number of landing craft delivered under this program is 925, and will be increased.

Of the cargo vessels, 54 10,000-tonners and 13 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 mechanical transport units will be of a 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 155,000. 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 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. Due to 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 third in the world in the production of foodstuffs and fourth in the production of war supplies, Canada's external trade is now the fourth largest in the world.