

80,298,000 on May 1 and 117,142,000 a year ago.

Holdings of frozen meat were down to 42,128,000 pounds from 48,243,000 on May 1 and 80,252,000 on the same date last year. Stocks of fresh meat declined slightly, totalling 13,311,000 pounds compared with 15,481,000 on May 1 and 14,851,000 a year earlier, while cured meat rose to 17,102,000 pounds from 16,574,000 on May 1, but were down from the June 1, 1948 total of 22,039,000 pounds.

**FARM PRICES:** Farm prices of agricultural products, as measured by the indexes compiled monthly by the Bureau of Statistics, averaged fractionally higher in April than in May, halting the downward trend recorded in the previous three months. At the April level, the average for all Canada was about 3.5 per cent higher than a year earlier, but below the year's average for 1948.

For April, the index, on the base 1935-39=100, is estimated by the Bureau at 251.3 as compared with a revised estimate of 251.2 for March and 242.7 for April last year. Average for 1948 was 252.6 and the peak reached was 264.2 in August last year.

As compared with March, higher prices for grains and livestock offset lower prices for dairy products, potatoes and vegetables, while as compared with April a year ago higher prices for livestock, fruits, tobacco, poultry and eggs more than offset declines in the prices of coarse grains, dairy products, potatoes, vegetables and furs.

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Tobacco, soy beans, corn and tomatoes have been particularly hard hit by late frosts, necessitating considerable replanting of these crops. The dry, cool weather and frosty nights have retarded growth of practically all field crops. In the greater part of Ontario the drought is the most severe on record and immediate, prolonged rains are needed to ensure even a partial recovery in the most seriously affected areas. Last night's (June 13) showers provided the first relief that some areas have had for several weeks.

Weather conditions in the Province of Quebec vary all the way from extremely dry in western districts, especially around Montreal, to extremely wet in the area from Lake St. John to Gaspé and Baie de Chaleur. Seeding has been completed in the dry areas and the grains appear at present to be in fairly good condition in most districts, although rain is urgently needed to promote further development and stimulate the growth of hay and pastures. In the extremely wet regions seeding is from 60 per cent to 90 per cent complete. Although the abundant rainfall has resulted in an excellent growth of hay and pasture, a period of drier weather is needed so that seeding operations may be completed.

Dry weather has prevailed in Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia during the past two weeks but moisture supplies in New Brunswick are satisfactory. Growth of grains has been retarded by the cool weather but pastures and hay meadows, except in the Annapolis Valley, are making good growth. The tree fruit crops in Nova Scotia, with the exception of pears, are promising.

**LABOUR INCOME:** Canadian labour income for March is estimated at \$605,000,000, unchanged from the preceding month, but \$61,000,000 or 11 per cent higher than in the same month last year, according to the Bureau of Statistics.

Slight advances were recorded in the secondary industries, manufacturing, construction, transportation, trade and the services, but these were counterbalanced by losses which occurred in the primary industries, forestry, fishing and mining. The index of employment in nine leading non-agricultural industries decreased from 188.1 on March 1 to 186.6 on April 1, while average weekly earnings for the same industries showed an increase from \$43.15 on March 1 to \$43.22 on April 1.

Total labour income for the first quarter of this year is estimated at \$1,818,000,000, an advance of \$180,000,000 over the similar period a year earlier. Somewhat higher levels of employment and considerably higher levels of average weekly earnings were responsible for this increase.

**CIVIL AVIATION:** Bolstered by improved passenger and mail earnings, Canadian air carriers reported total revenues of \$2,387,613 in January, a gain of 24 per cent over the \$1,919,308 received in the corresponding month last year, according to the Bureau of Statistics. Expenses increased to a greater extent, totalling \$2,888,256 for the month, up 21 per cent, contrasting with the advance of \$468,305 in receipts. Net operating revenues showed a deficit of just over half a million dollars as against \$461,359 in January, 1948. An operating debit in January appears to conform to the seasonal pattern in post-war experience. Scheduled carriers had revenues of \$2,074,534 and expenses of \$2,513,340 in January.

**PROVINCIAL ELECTIONS:** The Nova Scotia Liberal Government of Premier Angus L. Macdonald was returned to power in the election of June 9 with 27 members, while the Progressive Conservatives elected 8 and the C.C.F. 2.

The British Columbia Coalition Government of Premier Byron Johnson was returned to power in the election of June 15 with 40 members, while the C.C.F. elected 6, Independent 1, and Labour 1.