

	1914.	1919.	1919 (weighted).
Fire premiums . \$	27,499,158	\$ 39,914,398	\$ 17,000,000
Fire losses paid	15,347,284	16,642,172	7,000,000
Fire insurance in force	3,456,019,009	5,904,396,461	2,512,000,000
Life premiums .	53,835,737	94,574,689	40,000,000
Life payments .	28,207,981	53,006,830	23,000,000
Life insurance in force	1,242,160,478	2,176,432,846	964,000,000

Similar comparisons might be applied to many other figures. Bank clearings were \$8,087,728,595 in 1914, and \$16,701,279,382 in 1919; but if the dollar in the latter year be considered as the equivalent of 42.5 cents in the former, it is found that clearings, instead of having increased as might be inferred, have actually decreased in terms of commodities.

Some Profits Increased

The same qualifications may be applied to the net earnings and profits of corporations, as the following illustrates:—

	1914.	1919.	1919 (weighted).
Bell Telephone	\$ 2,212,617	\$ 2,153,324	\$ 954,000
Canadian Cottons	573,877	1,563,103	665,000
Canada Cement	1,517,059	1,907,969	812,000
Canadian Car	394,958	2,424,751	1,032,000
Canadian Locomotive ..	334,114	848,683	361,000
Dominion Steel	3,571,058	5,532,529	2,354,000
Steel Company	539,811	2,897,075	1,233,000
Price Bros.	594,010	2,055,782	913,000
Spanish River	31,579	1,296,921	552,000
Can. Cons. Rubber ..	479,181	2,397,577	1,019,000
Totals	\$10,248,264	\$23,077,714	\$9,995,000

In the case of the assets of a few industrial companies the figures work out as follows:—

	1914.	1919.	1919 (weighted).
Bell Telephone	\$ 40,852,099	\$ 56,527,751	\$ 24,500,000
Canadian Cottons	14,484,144	14,863,442	6,300,000
Canada Cement	35,447,514	35,143,610	14,900,000
Canadian Car	25,401,357	35,017,435	14,900,000
Canadian Locomotive ..	5,583,106	7,871,474	3,300,000
Dominion Steel	81,844,651	102,545,204	43,600,000
Steel Company	31,302,811	47,660,389	20,300,000
Price Bros.	17,244,020	24,675,567	10,500,000
Spanish River	14,693,842	31,603,104	13,400,000
Can. Cons. Rubber ..	14,128,095	28,172,519	12,000,000
Totals	\$280,981,639	\$384,090,495	\$163,700,000

As measured by commodities rather than by money, the above calculations show that Canadian business as a whole has contracted during the six years since the beginning of the war. Exports of Canadian produce are the only trade figures which show a real growth. Bank deposits, although in actual money they have increased enormously, have not so great a purchasing power as they had in 1914; the deposits and loans abroad show a real increase, however. Both fire and life insurance have failed to keep up with the general inflation. Bank clearings, representing the volume of business transactions as a whole, indicate that this volume has actually been reduced. Out of a representative list of ten industrial companies, none show an increase in assets, but several show an increase in net profits.

In some cases the actual position may be better than these figures would indicate. Many industrial companies have not written up their assets to their full market value, fearing that this would make drastic reductions necessary in the future at a time when profits were not good. The banks have pursued the same conservative policy in the valuation of their premises. Even if the figures are approximately correct, however, they show that the Dominion is to be congratulated more for its self-deception than for its progress; and that shareholders in

prominent industrial companies are now receiving less real return from their investment than they did in 1914.

How do figures of the actual amounts of commodities produced, exported or imported, where they are available, bear out the above results? A comparison is as follows:—

	1914.	1919.
Wheat production (bushels) ..	161,280,000	193,260,400
Oats production (bushels)	313,078,000	394,387,000
Barley production (bushels) ...	36,201,000	56,389,400
Corn production (bushels)	13,924,000	16,940,500
Potatoes production (bushels) ..	85,672,000	125,574,900
Hay and clover (tons)	10,259,000	16,348,000
Number of horses	2,947,738	3,667,369
Number of milch cows	2,673,286	3,548,437
Number of other cattle	3,363,531	6,536,574
Number of sheep	2,058,045	3,421,958
Number of swine	3,434,261	4,040,070
Gold production (oz.)	773,178	767,167
Silver production (oz.)	28,449,821	15,675,134
Copper production (lb.)	75,735,960	74,124,653
Lead production (lb.)	36,337,765	43,895,888
Nickel production (lb.)	45,517,937	44,542,953
Pig iron production (tons)	783,164	38,457
Coal production (tons)	13,637,529	13,586,300
Cement production (bbl.)	7,172,480	4,991,340

Regarding the crop figures, it is important to remember that 1914 was not a good year, while 1919 was a fairly good one, making the comparison more favorable to the latter. The production of livestock and of some metals was stimulated by the high prices resulting from the war. In several cases, however, the actual quantities produced were less in 1919 than in 1914.

A comparison of some exports, in quantities, is as follows:—

	1914.	1919.
Wheat (bu.)	120,426,579	41,808,897
Wheat flour (bbl.)	4,832,183	9,205,439
Oats (bu.)	34,996,664	17,879,783
Hay (tons)	191,515	492,208
Bacon (lb.)	23,859,754	120,622,092
Butter (lb.)	1,228,753	13,659,157
Cheese (lb.)	144,478,340	152,207,037
Silver (oz.)	36,758,276	19,758,478
Copper (lb.)	83,250,198	65,612,400
Nickel (lb.)	50,580,536	79,164,400
Coal (tons)	1,498,820	1,826,639

The steam railways carried 46,702,280 passengers and 101,393,989 tons of freight in 1914, compared with 78,371,716 passengers and 116,699,572 tons of freight in 1919. The corresponding figures for electric roads were 614,709,819 passengers and 1,845,923 tons of freight in 1914, and 686,124,263 passengers and 2,474,892 tons in 1919.

JUDGMENT ON DOMINION STEEL CASE

Judgment in the claim of the Dominion Iron and Steel Corporation against the Dominion government for rolling 100,000 tons of steel rails ordered by the government during the war was delivered by Sir Walter Cassels in the exchequer court on December 16. The president, in his judgment, fixed the price to be paid at the rate of \$65 a ton for No. 1 rails and \$63 for No. 2 rails. The claim of the company for interest and profits lost through the fulfilment of the government order was disallowed. Each side was ordered to pay its own costs.

The prices arrived at were those which had been estimated by the minister of railways, and the judgment upholds the opinion of the minister. The claim of the company was for the price rails plus compensation for profits lost through the necessary cancellation of contracts with the imperial munitions board. The company's claim for interest on profits lost was disallowed. The suit involved the sum of \$1,116,000.