

26.—Number of Gas Meters in Use, fiscal years ended Mar. 31, 1916-31.

Fiscal Year.	Manufactured Gas.	Natural Gas.	Acetylene Gas.	Butane.	Total.
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
1916.....	199,514	67,940	-	-	267,454
1917.....	314,915	55,697	-	-	370,612
1918.....	325,244	88,795	-	-	414,039
1919.....	336,388	91,056	-	-	427,444
1920.....	350,777	85,004	513	-	436,294
1921.....	361,479	93,944	577	-	460,550
1922.....	366,840	101,785	430	-	469,055
1923.....	379,459	102,007	438	-	481,904
1924.....	390,548	105,804	425	-	496,777
1925.....	405,471	106,861	404	-	512,736
1926.....	443,067	85,752	425	-	529,244
1927.....	462,496	90,302	358	-	553,156
1928.....	482,076	98,815	357	-	581,348
1929.....	504,500	107,504	116	-	612,120
1930.....	520,788	118,390	117	-	639,295
1931.....	530,909	125,850	67	205	656,731

27.—Number of Cubic Feet of Gas Sold in Canada, fiscal years ended Mar. 31, 1920-31.

Fiscal Year	Carburetted Water Gas.	Coal Gas.	Coke Oven Gas.	Natural Gas.	Acetylene Gas.	Butane.	Total.
	cu. ft.	cu. ft.	cu. ft.	cu. ft.	cu. ft.	cu. ft.	cu. ft.
1920	4,487,511,839	6,787,370,045	-	17,117,100,328	1,669,650	-	28,393,651,662
1921	5,331,442,415	7,096,221,745	-	-	-	-	-
1922	4,668,391,857	8,433,960,903	-	11,289,582,401	1,005,000	-	24,392,850,161
1923	6,632,961,609	7,637,113,997	132,000	12,238,836,883	1,185,395	-	26,510,207,884
1924	5,214,843,290	8,042,882,160	3,188,600	14,866,818,700	1,194,059	-	28,128,726,149
1925	5,254,302,700	7,824,192,540	91,628,300	10,525,604,563	1,266,109	-	23,697,494,212
1926	4,835,613,326	8,149,894,391	1,449,794,500	13,004,469,776	1,210,894	-	27,440,982,887
1927	5,804,503,468	8,405,656,329	1,049,978,000	17,863,365,700	1,247,108	-	33,124,650,905
1928	6,683,634,603	7,488,964,653	1,650,237,100	20,365,048,768	1,325,510	-	36,419,210,634
1929	4,550,828,600	6,273,274,533	6,097,920,366	25,491,446,000	647,168	-	42,414,116,667
1930	4,456,926,628	5,802,853,503	8,153,473,000	31,580,844,600	847,230	-	50,294,814,961
1931	4,214,654,234	6,249,189,852	7,792,046,911	23,584,604,069	875,080	9,137,000	46,800,407,146

Section 7.—Statistics of Wholesale and Retail Merchandising.¹

Comprehensive information regarding the distribution of commodities to the consumer is an outstanding need in the field of statistical effort at the present time. Statistics of production have helped to solve many of the problems of production, thus rendering it more efficient. We have very little information of an exact nature about wholesale and retail distribution, yet some of the most important business problems of the day are concerned with this field of activity by which goods reach the ultimate consumer from the manufacturer and producer. It is to be expected that if a comprehensive picture of the channels through which commodities are distributed and services rendered to consumers was made available, it would lead to many economies and aid in the development of more efficient distribution.

In connection with the 1931 population census information regarding merchandising and service establishments has been collected with the purpose of obtaining a much needed comprehensive picture of the distribution of commodities at wholesale and retail and of the agencies through which services are performed. This census included questions on capital employed, employees, wages, sales and expenses, etc. At the time of going to press the census material covering these aspects of internal trade has not been completely assembled or analysed. Reference is made to pp. 644-646 of the 1931 Year Book for the latest figures on trading establishments and chain stores.

¹Revised by Herbert Marshall, B.A., F.S.S., Chief, Internal Trade Branch, Dominion Bureau of Statistics. For a list of the Publications of this Branch see Chapter XXIX, Section I under "Internal Trade".