

Section 3.—Commodity Analyses of Canadian Trade

Subsection 1.—Trade of Canada by Main Groups

The expansion in Canada's trade that followed the depression of the early 1930's experienced some interruption in 1938 but was continued in 1939 and 1940. The impact of the War on the Canadian economy resulted in an increase in both imports and exports. In 1941 imports in all groups showed increases over the preceding year, except animals and products and wood and paper; in 1942, decreases were shown in the value of agricultural and vegetable products, iron and its products and non-ferrous metals, and in the volume of animals and products, wood and paper and chemicals and allied products, in addition to the three groups whose value had decreased. In 1943 increases were posted in all groups except miscellaneous commodities which includes aircraft, articles for the Imperial Army and Navy and war materials imported under special orders in council for which a very high increase had been recorded in 1942 and was well maintained in the later year. In 1944 increases were shown in the value of agricultural and vegetable products, wood, wood products and paper, iron and its products, non-metallic minerals and their products and chemicals and allied products. In 1945 decreases were shown in all the main groups except agricultural and vegetable products, animals and products, fibres and textiles, and wood and paper. Miscellaneous commodities showed the largest decrease amounting to 41.3 p.c., while iron and its products decreased 10.2 p.c. These two groups accounted for large shipments of war materials and were mainly responsible for the 9.8 p.c. decrease of total imports in 1945.

Canadian domestic exports for 1943 totalled \$2,971,000,000, more than three times greater than the value of the 1939 exports. Well over 80 p.c. of the 1943 exports were materials used directly in the carrying on of total war, and were sent where they would best serve the cause of the United Nations.

Exports in 1944 showed increases in all groups except the non-metallic minerals and products and miscellaneous. In the agricultural and vegetable group the outstanding items were the grains (wheat, barley, oats, rye, flax) and flour. Other important commodities in this category were potatoes, fodders and rubber manufactures. The increase in the value of animal products exported reflected the heavy shipments of meats, cheese, canned fish and eggs, particularly to the United Kingdom. Under fibres and textiles are recorded certain war materials such as parachutes, uniforms, blankets and web equipment, increasing the value of this group of exports in 1944 to over four times the 1939 value. Unlike all other commodity groups, the wood and paper products category contains a high percentage of essential civilian goods, but nevertheless, the values have almost doubled since 1939 due to increased demands for lumber, newsprint, wood pulp and other products. Shipments of military vehicles of all kinds and of guns accounted for a large proportion of the increases recorded in the iron group. Other war equipment including aircraft, shells, ships and Canadian military stores, grouped under miscellaneous commodities, showed a drop of one-third from the peak of \$578,500,000 in 1943.

In 1945, although the total exports showed a decrease of 6.4 p.c., this was largely accounted for by the decline in miscellaneous commodities and iron and its products. Agricultural and vegetable products, and wood and paper continued to show increases.

The following statement shows values of exports of foods, munitions and war materials during the years 1939-45. Included are the shipments of finished war equipment such as vehicles, guns, shells, aircraft and ships as well as raw material for their production. The main items of food are listed together with certain com-

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