

import restrictions, that is, December through February, the favourable balance was \$130 million, double the balance of a year earlier.

On our trade with the United States, which is the crux of the foreign exchange problem, an unfavourable balance of \$140 million in September-November 1946, had increased to nearly \$240 million in September-November 1947. In the three months following restriction of imports, the unfavourable balance was \$115 million, which can be compared with an unfavourable balance of \$180 million a year earlier. Similarly, there has been an increase in our holdings of gold and U.S. currency. This reserve dropped to \$460 million in mid-December, and increased to nearly \$530 million at the end of February, not including \$50 million drawn on the loan from the American Export-Import Bank."

UNIQUE PRESENTATION: A photograph of Winston Churchill on which he has written "To Fort Churchill and its friends since 1685", an engraving of the first Baron Churchill after whom the Churchill River was named, and a framed certificate of presentation have been sent to the Defence Research Board of Canada by four eminent British defence scientists following their visit to Canada last fall.

The scientists are Sir Henry Tizard, Chairman of the Defence Research Policy Committee; Sir Ben Lockspeiser, Chief Scientist, Ministry of Supply; Dr. O.H. Wansbrough-Jones, Scientific Adviser to the Army Council; and Dr. J.A. Carroll, Deputy Controller (Research and Development) of the Admiralty.

The framed presentations have been sent to Dr. O.M. Solandt, OBE, Chairman of the Defence Research Board, for the officers' mess of the armed forces' cold weather testing station at Fort Churchill. The actual presentation to the mess will be made by Hon. Brooke Claxton, Minister of National Defence, when he visits Churchill.

Baron Churchill of Aymouth, shown in the engraving, is the same man who later became Duke of Marlborough. He was the third governor of the Hudson's Bay Company, from 1685 to 1692. This explains the phrase "friends since 1685" autographed on his own photograph by Rt. Hon. Winston Churchill, direct descendant of the Duke of Marlborough and British wartime Prime Minister.

WORLD WHEAT SITUATION: There has been a fairly steady flow of shipments from the four major wheat-exporting countries to deficit areas during the past few months. Record 1947 wheat crops in the United States and Australia, together with an excellent crop in the Argentine, have made it possible to maintain rations in these areas at better levels than had been hoped for earlier in the season.

Although Canada's 1947 wheat crop was below average and carry-over stocks at the outset of the crop year were very low, exports of wheat and flour in terms of wheat will be close to the 200-million-bushel mark for the current crop year. It is estimated that, by the end of May, exports of grains and grain products from the United States will have amounted to 521.9 million bushels (in grain equivalent), this amount including 432.5 million bushels of wheat and flour in terms of wheat. It now appears likely that crop-year exports of all grains and grain products from the United States may approach a total of 570 million bushels, of which wheat and flour will make up considerably more than 450 million bushels. Exports of grains from Russia, too, have not been inconsiderable.

In the light of these favourable factors some international food authorities have forecast an end to the international allocation of cereal grains. Any such final decision, however, will likely hinge on the size of the United States 1948 winter wheat and corn crops in addition to satisfactory 1948 harvests in the world's deficit areas.

RETAIL SALES: Sales of retail stores in Canada were nine per cent higher in February this year than in the same month a year ago, according to the composite index for 14 trades. Combining the 18 per cent increase in January with the nine per cent February gain, sales in the first two months of this year were 13 per cent above the corresponding period of 1947. The decline between January and February this year was consistent with the normal seasonal trend of sales. Unadjusted indexes, on the base 1935-39=100, were 198.7 for February, 211.8 for January, and 183.1 for February, 1947.

Food stores had the largest of the increases for individual trades in the first two months of this year; sales averaged 18 per cent above the corresponding period a year ago. The 14 per cent increase for February was not quite as substantial as a 23 per cent gain recorded in January, but nevertheless ranked high among the gains recorded by various trades. Price increases have undoubtedly been one of the major factors in this trend in food store sales.

Department store sales marked up a gain of only three per cent in February, an increase which is considerably lower than the January rise of 17 per cent. Sales averaged nine per cent higher in the two-month period. Country general and variety stores reported sales up seven per cent and 13 per cent, respectively in February.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE: Claims for unemployment insurance benefit filed at local offices of the Unemployment Insurance Commission in

February totalled 88,016 as against 109,311 in January and 55,569 in the corresponding month last year. Ordinary claimants on the live unemployment register at the end of February numbered 146,074 compared with 130,798 at the end of January and 110,062 at the end of February, 1947. In addition there were 7,279 on the live unemployment register at the end of February, 14,462 as at January 31, and 2,358 a year ago.

CAR LOADINGS: Car loadings on Canadian railways for the week ended April 3 increased to 74,459 cars from 68,813 cars for the preceding week and 66,639 cars for the corresponding week last year; loadings for both of these weeks were depressed by the holiday on Good Friday. Grain loadings were lighter than in the same week last year by 1,150 cars and grain products also declined by 311 cars. Coal loadings increased from 3,037 cars to 6,188 cars, only 1,066 cars being loaded in the eastern division in 1947.

SASKATCHEWAN FARMS: Both proportion and area of occupied farms in Saskatchewan operated by owners increased from 1941 to 1946, according to preliminary figures of the 1946 Prairie Census. This is a reversal of the trend recorded in the preceding five years. Out of 125,612 occupied farms in the province at June 1, 1946, 71,035 or nearly 57 per cent were owner-operated as compared with 52.6 per cent of the 1941 total of 138,713 occupied farms. In 1936 owner-operated farms formed 60.3 per cent of the 142,391 farms. While the number of farms, both total and owner-operated thus decreased during the 10 years, the area of owned farms in 1946 was 6.7 per cent higher than in 1941 and 2.5 per cent above 1936.

COST OF LIVING: The Dominion Bureau of Statistics has released cost-of-living indexes for eight regional cities for March 1, together with those for February 2 and March 1 last year. Five of the eight cities -- Halifax, Saint John, Montreal, Winnipeg and Saskatoon -- showed increases of 1.2 points between February 2 and March 1, while the index for Edmonton moved up 0.8 points, and that for Vancouver advanced one point. Toronto recorded the smallest change with a rise of 0.3 points.

The Bureau points out that in interpreting the city indexes it should be understood that they compare changes in living costs in each city, but do not compare actual levels of living costs as between cities. It is incorrect to conclude, on the basis of these indexes, that it costs more to live in one city than it does in another. The comparable Dominion cost-of-living index, on the base August 1939 was 149.6 for March 1 this year.

The following table shows the city cost-of-living indexes for March 1 this year, February 2, and March 1, 1947.

	March 1 1947	Feb. 2 1948	March 1 1948
(August 1939=100)			
Halifax.....	126.7	144.3	145.5
Saint John.....	126.9	147.7	148.9
Montreal.....	130.8	152.8	154.0
Toronto.....	126.9	147.8	148.1
Winnipeg.....	124.8	144.4	145.6
Saskatoon.....	130.2	151.9	153.1
Edmonton.....	126.0	145.1	145.9
Vancouver.....	129.0	148.7	149.7

LESS BUTTER: Creamery butter production in March amounted to 11,384,000 pounds as compared with 12,240,000 pounds in the corresponding month last year, a decline of seven per cent, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. During the first three months of this year, 28,410,000 pounds were produced compared with 30,744,000 in the like period of 1947, a decrease of 7.6 per cent. There were declines in both the month and quarter in all provinces except Alberta.

WHEAT STOCKS: Stocks of Canadian wheat in store or in transit in North America at midnight on March 31 totalled 88,103,500 bushels compared with 92,239,300 bushels on March 24, and 105,505,300 bushels on the corresponding date last year, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Visible on the latest date comprised 85,834,900 bushels in Canadian positions and 2,268,600 bushels in United States positions.

3,178 "D.P.'S" LAST MONTH: Three thousand one hundred and seventy-eight Displaced Persons arrived in Canada last month, raising the total number of homeless Europeans received in Canada since April 1947 to 14,250, it was announced by the Immigration Branch of the Department of Mines and Resources.

The figure for March was the highest on record, bettering by 670 the previous monthly high of 2,508 reached in January, and exceeded the February mark by 1,959.

Of the total of Displaced Persons now in Canada, 5,042 are close relatives of residents of this country, 8,702 are workers brought forward in groups in response to requests submitted by industry, and 506 are orphan children.

The groups who have arrived are as follows: domestics, 1,798; woodworkers, 3,599; textile workers, 207; miners, 983; garment workers, 803; garment workers' dependants, 569; steel workers, 124; steel workers' dependants, 20; railway workers, 289; foundry workers, 64; hydro workers, 246.