

SMALL CREDIT BALANCE WITH U.S. IN NOVEMBER

IN MERCHANDISE TRADE: Canada's unfavourable trade balance with the United States in 1948-- already substantially cut from 1947 -- was whittled slightly lower in November when domestic and foreign exports to that country exceeded Canadian purchases by approximately \$1,500,000 to reduce the debit figure from \$275,400,000 at the end of October to \$273,700,000. This compares with an adverse balance of \$884,200,000 at the end of November, 1947, according to the Bureau of Statistics.

Both import and export trade with the United States in November reached the highest value for any month in 1948, but imports were below the corresponding month of 1947 while exports were sharply higher. The former were valued at \$163,500,000, as compared with \$174,400,000 a year earlier, and exports at \$163,300,000 against \$92,900,000. Re-exports of foreign produce at \$1,700,000 accounted for the slight excess of Canadian sales over imports. The latest result compares with an adverse balance of \$79,800,000 in November, 1947.

MERCHANDISE IMPORTS UP: Imports entered for consumption were valued at \$238,200,000 in November, down slightly from the year's monthly high total of \$243,400,000 for October, but \$9,100,000 higher than in November, 1947. This brought the cumulative total for the 11 months ending November to \$2,405,000,000, slightly above the \$2,379,800,000 shown for the similar period of 1947, the Bureau of Statistics reports.

Merchandise imports from the United States were again lower in November, falling to \$163,465,000 from \$174,388,000 in the corresponding month of 1947, bringing the aggregate for the first 11 months of the year to \$1,646,409,000 as against \$1,833,016,000 in the like period of 1947.

Continuing the recent upward movement, imports from the United Kingdom advanced to \$28,319,000 in November from \$17,846,000 in the same month of 1947, and in the 11 months to \$274,869,000 from \$169,115,000 a year ago.

Purchases from Latin American countries rose in the month to \$16,579,000 from \$14,168,000, and in the 11-month period to \$204,372,000 from \$147,563,000 a year earlier. Imports from Brazil, San Domingo, and Venezuela were higher both in the month and cumulative period, and were substantially higher from Mexico in the 11-month period but slightly lower in the month.

Imports from European countries moved up in the month to \$7,742,000 from \$4,920,000, and in the 11 months to \$58,568,000 from \$54,216,000. Imports from Belgium, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, France, Italy, and the Netherlands were higher in both periods, but were down from Portugal, Sweden and Switzerland.

In trade with the United Kingdom, Canada had a favourable balance of \$28,600,000 in November as compared with \$36,500,000 in October and \$51,600,000 in November, 1947. For the 11 months ending November, the credit balance aggregated \$365,200,000, down from \$511,800,000 for the similar period of the previous year.

Canada's total merchandise trade in November amounted to \$534,500,000. Imports were valued at \$238,200,000, domestic exports at \$293,900,000 and foreign exports at \$2,400,000, making the favourable balance of trade with all countries slightly above \$58,000,000.

During the 11 months ending November, total trade reached \$5,195,700,000 as against \$4,920,700,000 in 1947, with imports aggregating \$2,405,000,000 against \$2,379,800,000, domestic exports \$2,759,000,000 against \$2,508,700,000, and foreign exports \$31,700,000 compared with \$32,200,000. The overall favourable balance of trade for the period rose to \$385,800,000 as against \$161,100,000 the previous year.

Imports from Australia and New Zealand were higher in November and the 11-month period. Purchases from Australia increased to \$2,852,000 in November from \$586,000 a year earlier, and in the 11 months to \$22,850,000 from \$12,997,000. November imports from New Zealand advanced to \$2,562,000 from \$693,000, and in the 11 months from \$10,122,000 to \$11,388,000.

SMALL INCREASES

Small increases were recorded in November by seven of the nine main commodity groups, while in the 11 months advances were shown for only three groups. The non-metallic mineral products group showed the largest gain in the month and cumulative period, being imported in November to the value of \$49,166,000 as compared with \$43,289,000 a year earlier, and in the 11 months, \$559,976,000 compared with \$414,584,000. Major increases were in the imports of coal and crude petroleum.

The iron and its products group -- largest of the nine -- rose from \$65,383,000 in November, 1947 to \$70,587,000, and in the 11-month period from \$703,402,000 to \$715,387,000. Imports of household machinery, automobiles and parts and non-farm machinery were lower in the month, while in the 11 months there were declines in hardware and cutlery, household machinery, automobiles, and cooking and heating apparatus. The value of most other commodities were at higher levels.

Fibres and textiles were imported to the value of \$32,618,000 in November compared with \$31,198,000 a year earlier, and in the 11 months, \$322,368,000 compared with \$361,818,000. The month's imports of agricultural and vegetable products were valued at \$35,743,000,

slightly higher than in 1947, but the 11-month total fell from \$327,799,000 to \$314,876,000.

Imports of non-ferrous metals and products moved up in November from \$14,162,000 a year earlier to \$14,975,000, but the 11-month total fell from \$149,851,000 to \$141,709,000. The chemicals and allied products group was higher in both periods, the November total rising from \$9,687,000 to \$10,553,000, and in the 11 months from \$104,508,000 to \$108,050,000.

DEPARTMENT STORE SALES UP: Department store sales increased 12 per cent during the week ending January 8 this year as compared with the corresponding week a year earlier, according to preliminary figures released by the Bureau of Statistics. The Maritime Provinces led in percentage rise with a gain of 22 per cent, followed by Manitoba with 18 per cent, Quebec 16 per cent, Alberta 16 per cent, Ontario seven per cent, and Saskatchewan seven per cent. Results for British Columbia are not available.

WINTER TRAINING: The Army's winter training program is in full swing with courses in tactics and movement under conditions of extreme cold, and kindred subjects, being conducted at each of the five service commands and at the Cold Weather Testing Station at Fort Churchill, Man.

In Western Command about 500 army men from reserve infantry, artillery, armour and ancillary units from all parts of Alberta and British Columbia are preparing for cold weather exercises in the area of Wainwright Military Camp during the first two weeks of February. The latest type of army winter clothing as well as ski and snow-shoe equipment is to be issued to all ranks attending the camp, and parkas, moccasins, polaroid sun goggles, sleeping bags and warm under garments are now stored at the camp ready for issue.

Courses in winter training and arctic indoctrination are also being conducted at Shilo, Manitoba, for Prairie Command; Petawawa, Ontario, for Central Command, and at Valcartier, for Quebec Command. Although no regular winter training school has been set up in Eastern Command, such training will be carried out there on a limited basis at various centres.

Reserve Force troops are being trained by instructors who have served at the Churchill school as well as those who have studied the ways of trappers and bushmen in the Whitehorse, Yukon area. With special clothing and equipment, the reservists are to be gradually hardened to take part in ski and snowshoe exercises and to live in the open on overnight bivouac schemes.

Active Force troops are being given out-and-out Arctic indoctrination courses and on January 20 one group will go to the Cold Weather Testing Station at Churchill to test army equipment under conditions of extreme cold.

ADDRESS BY FINANCE MINISTER: The Minister of Finance, Mr. Abbott, addressed the Annual Luncheon of the Canadian Women's Club of New York on January 15. During the course of his remarks, he discussed, among other matters, Canada's trade relations with the United States, and, after touching upon the dollar exchange problem, proceeded as follows:

"In the recent past there has been a number of economic developments in Canada which give promise both of a better balance in, and also of a substantial expansion of, our mutual trade. What I have in mind is the discovery of vast supplies of important raw materials; iron ore in northern Quebec and Labrador; uranium in the northwest; oil in Alberta and titanium ore in Quebec. As these are developed, they should lead to a further tremendous expansion in our production and economic power and to a strengthening of our trading position with the United States.

"By any standard of measurement... Canada has grown and is growing as an economic power. Indeed that growth has been phenomenal. In physical terms, it has nearly doubled our production. It has placed Canada third amongst the trading nations of the world. It has given our people a standard of living surpassed only by that which you enjoy.

"It is obvious that this growth in economic power has been possible, and natural that it should have brought with it substantial improvement in the second of the two fields to which I have referred. During the last decade Canada has made rapid strides as a social organism, that is to say, in assuring to its people reasonable standards of social well-being. Educational facilities and services, general and vocational, have been vastly improved and extended. In health, recreation and other community services we have also made progress. In housing as well, though here acute shortages of materials and skilled labour have made it difficult to keep up with the demands of a rapidly rising rate of family formation and a rapidly rising standard of living.

"We have also made progress towards the attainment of a greater measure of social security...."

DENTAL OFFICERS IN U.S.: Two officers of the Royal Canadian Dental Corps are attending special courses in the United States.

Major I.A.L. Millar, senior dental officer at HMCS Naden, Esquimalt, B.C., is a candidate on the general post-graduate course at the United States Dental School, National Naval Medical Centre, Bethesda, Md.

Major T.L. Marsh, of the Royal Canadian Dental School, Ottawa, is attending the advanced dental course at the United States Army Medical Department Research and Graduate School, Walter Reid Hospital, Washington, D.C.

These courses are designed to acquaint experienced dental officers with recent advances