IMPORTS IN MAY AT NEW MONTHLY PEAK

TRADE DEFICIT: Canada's commodity import trade continued to move upward during May, climbing in value to an all-time monthly peak, according to preliminary summary figures on the month's total foreign trade released July 7 by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Commodity exports - on which figures were released twelve days ago - were about the same in value as in May last year, although substantially above earlier months this year. The result was an import balance for the fifth successive month, but a considerably smaller one than in April.

Total imports in May rose to an estimated $422,200,000, up from $393,100,000 in April, and over nine per cent above last year's May value of $386,000,000, which was the highest figure for any month of 1952. This year's May value compares with the previous monthly peak figure of $405,100,000 for May, 1951, but due to substantially lower average prices represents a much greater rise in volume than the value figures indicate.

EXPORTS $385,000,000

Total exports - domestic and foreign - in May stood at $385,000,000 as compared to $386,900,000 a year earlier. For May this year there was thus an overall import surplus of $37,200,000 as against the small export surplus of $1,000,000 for May, 1952.

In the five months ended May this year, commodity imports rose to an estimated aggregate value of $1,813,600,000 as compared to $1,626,100,000 for the same 1952 period. Total exports for the period were down in value to $1,603,700,000, as against $1,740,900,000. The five-month trade this year thus produced an import balance of $209,900,000 in contrast with an export balance of $114,800,000 last year. This year's import balance, however, continues to run substantially below that of 1951, which amounted to $295,800,000 at the end of May.

Estimated value of commodity imports from the United States in May rose to $314,800,000 as compared to $282,900,000 last year, accounting for the major part of the total increase. Total exports to the United States also increased, but in smaller dollar value, to $224,200,000 from $202,000,000, the import balance for the month consequently rising to $90,600,000 as compared to $80,900,000 last year. In the five months, imports from the United States rose to an estimated value of $1,379,500,000 as against $1,222,500,000, while total exports increased to $991,500,000 as compared to $937,700,000, the cumulative import balance rising to $388,000,000 in comparison with $284,800,000 last year.

PURCHASES FROM U.K.

Purchases from the United Kingdom during May continued at the higher levels of previous months, moving up to an estimated $43,200,000 as against $33,200,000 last year, while exports were down to $68,500,000 from $87,800,000, the export balance falling to $25,300,000 as compared to $54,600,000 for May last year. The estimated cumulative value of imports from the United Kingdom to the end of May was up to $176,300,000, over 35 per cent above last year's aggregate of $129,900,000. Five-month exports were down in value to $238,500,000 from $318,100,000, the export balance for the period dropping sharply to $62,200,000 from $188,200,000 last year.

Estimated value of imports from other Commonwealth countries was down in May to $17,500,000 from $20,200,000 last year, the five-month aggregate falling to $58,800,000 as compared to $74,900,000. Imports from the remaining countries were also lower in the month at an estimated $46,700,000 compared to $49,700,000, but the five-month total was almost unchanged at $199,000,000.

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NEW AUTO SHIPMENT RECORD: Factory shipments of Canadian-made motor vehicles set another new all-time monthly high record in April, according to the Bureau's monthly report. Both passenger and commercial vehicle shipments increased but passenger cars accounted for a larger part of the gain.

Shipments of made-in-Canada vehicles in April totalled 52,420 as compared with 51,990 in March -- the previous peak -- and 46,908 in the corresponding month last year. This brought the cumulative shipments for the first four months of 1953 to 183,208 units as compared with 147,797 in 1952, and 168,635 in 1951.

U.S. BUSINESS EXECUTIVES' TOUR: Eighty privately-owned light aircraft from Northern California, Oregon and Washington will fly into Canada at Lethbridge, Alberta, on July 25, when they will be joined by an additional score of Canadian planes for the 1953 Trans-Canada Air Tour. The tour is sponsored by the Royal Canadian Flying Clubs Association and the Portland, Oregon, Chamber of Commerce.

In other years similar tours by the same group of air-minded business executives have gone to Alaska, Cuba and South America, and on one occasion the holiday flyers went to Hawaii by charter plane to tour the Islands in light aircraft.