

RECORD EXPORTS TOTAL

Canada's domestic exports in the first half of this year showed a small increase to a record total of \$2,287,100,000 as compared with the preceding year's first-half value of \$2,269,900,000, Dominion Bureau of Statistics reports in its monthly summary. Both prices and volume were little changed over the half-year period. June's value dropped nearly 9 per cent to \$387,000,000 from \$423,600,000 but it should be noted that the month contained less working days than usual.

Half-year gains in exports of non-ferrous metals, non-metallic minerals, iron and its products, chemicals and allied products, and miscellaneous commodities, outweighed substantial declines in agricultural and animal products and wood and paper products. Geographically there were increased exports to all main areas except the United Kingdom and other Commonwealth countries. In June declines were common to all main areas except Latin America.

Among individual commodities there were increased values in the January-June period in aluminum and products, nickel, zinc and products, uranium and concentrates, crude petroleum, iron ore, seeds, grains other than wheat, and newsprint paper, but decreased values for wheat, wheat flour, fish and fishery products, planks and boards, wood pulp, farm implements and machinery, and copper and products.

January-June exports to the United States rose in value to \$1,355,690,000 from \$1,345,374,000 a year earlier, increases in four groups more than offsetting decreases in the other five. Chief increases were in the non-ferrous metals and non-metallic minerals section, and the main decrease in wood and paper.

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FIELD CROP ACREAGES

Preliminary estimates of 1957 field crop acreages, released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, indicate that Canadian farmers seeded 21,000,000 acres to wheat, a decrease of 8 per cent from the 1956 total of 22,800,000; 11,000,000 acres to oats, down 6 per cent from 11,700,000; and 9,400,000 acres to barley for an increase of 12 per cent over 8,400,000. Flax seedings increased 15 per cent to 3,500,000 acres (an all-time high) from 3,000,000. Rapeseed at 629,000 acres versus 351,900 and soybeans at 255,200 versus 243,200 also reached new record levels.

Rye seedings, at 550,000 acres are little changed from those of 1956 (546,900), but mixed grains at 1,452,200 acres have declined 7 per cent from the 1956 seedings of 1,560,500 acres. Other crops showing little change to moderate decreases in area from 1956 levels are potatoes, buckwheat, dry peas, dry beans, field roots and fodder corn. Somewhat larger acreages than in 1956 are reported for corn,

June's value was little changed at \$228,934,000 versus \$228,759,000, with all nine main groups relatively stable.

Exports to the United Kingdom fell to \$338,481,000 in the half-year period from \$368,961,000 a year earlier and to \$55,974,000 in June from \$65,363,000. The agricultural and vegetable products group accounted for most of the decrease in both periods.

Exports to the rest of the Commonwealth fell to \$112,170,000 in the half-year period from \$127,715,000 a year earlier and to \$19,587,000 in June from \$27,176,000. Shipments were smaller in value in both periods to the Union of South Africa, India, New Zealand and Jamaica, but larger to Australia.

Boosted by larger shipments to Mexico, Panama, Brazil, Argentina and Cuba, January-June exports to the Latin American group of countries rose to \$111,756,000 from \$80,566,000 a year earlier. June's value rose to \$16,548,000 from \$15,766,000. Exports to Venezuela were lower in value both in June and the six-month period.

General gains to most major European markets, including Belgium and Luxembourg, France, Federal Republic of Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, and Switzerland, raised the area total for the half-year to \$262,782,000 from \$255,709,000 in 1956. June's value dropped to \$50,463,000 from \$68,152,000.

Exports to all other foreign countries rose in the half-year period to \$96,573,000 from \$81,731,000 a year earlier, but declined in June to \$14,212,000 from \$16,785,000. Japan accounted for a large part of the total, shipments to that country rising in the six months but falling in June.

grain, tame hay and sugar beets. The area in summerfallow, at 24,700,000 acres is 3 per cent above that of 1956.

This year's potato acreage is estimated at 311,000 versus 312,500 in 1956; buckwheat, 102,400 acres (168,000 in 1956); dry peas, 84,900 (87,900); dry beans, 62,500 (65,600); field roots, 32,900 (39,700); fodder corn, 370,700 (394,200); and tame hay, 11,500,000 (10,900,000). The acreage of sugar beets remaining for harvest on or about July 31 amounted to 86,016 versus 78,878 a year earlier.

For Canada as a whole the area seeded to the 16 spring-planted crops included in the Bureau's estimate is placed at 48,400,000 acres compared with 49,300,000 in 1956 and the ten-year (1946-55) average of 47,400,000. Total acreage in the 16 spring-planted crops, together with winter wheat, fall rye, tame hay and summerfallow amounted to 85,600,000 acres, little changed from last year's 85,300,000.