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11-MONTH IMPORT SURPLUS

the eleven months were down in value to \$349,068,000 as against \$442,104,000 in the corresponding 1952 period.

Wheat exports in November were down in value to \$38,436,000 from \$57,611,000 a year earlier, while other grains were up to \$32,922,000 from \$27,412,000. Over the eleven months, wheat shipments declined in value to \$530,903,000 from \$549,601,000 in 1952 and other grains rose to \$196,263,000 from \$192,134,000.

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CONSUMER CREDIT: Retail cash and credit sales in the third quarter of 1953 both showed seasonal declines from the preceding three-month period, according to the Bureau's quarterly report on retail consumer credit. However, cash sales declined only slightly from the second quarter and settled at a higher level than any previous third quarter. Comparisons with 1952's third quarter indicate a gain of 6.8 per cent in cash sales, and decreases of 2.5 per cent in charge sales and a drop of 5.1 per cent in instalment sales.

Third quarter cash sales stood at \$2,110,500,000 as compared with \$2,115,500,000 in the April-June period and \$1,976,100,000 in the 1952 third quarter. Instalment sales in the third quarter of 1953 were \$317,300,000 as compared with \$395,600,000 in the preceding three-month period and \$334,200,000 at the same time in 1952. Charge sales in the 1953 third quarter totalled \$562,700,000 as compared with \$624,800,000 in the three months ending June and \$577,100,000 in the July-September period of 1952.

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BORDER TRAFFIC: The volume of highway traffic between Canada and the United States in November was five per cent greater than in the corresponding month of 1952, vehicle border crossings totalling 879,600 as compared with 836,700, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. In the first 11 months of 1953, vehicle border crossings aggregated 12,973,802 as compared with 11,864,990, for an increase of nine per cent. Foreign and Canadian vehicles contributed to the gain in equal proportions.

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GRAND BANK SWORDFISH: The Grand Bank of Newfoundland is noted mostly for its wealth of cod, but it may also be a rendezvous for swordfish. The Newfoundland Fisheries Research Station at St. John's reported to the annual meeting of the Fisheries Research Board in Ottawa that last July, large numbers of swordfish were seen all along the southwesterly slope of the Grand Bank, and became more numerous towards the southern tip of the Bank. Conditions were ideal for observation.

ARMY REGULAR RESERVE: In order to encourage Korean veterans and other trained troops to continue their Army association after their release, an additional category of the reserves, to be known as the Canadian Army Regular Reserve, has been formed, the Minister of National Defence, Mr. Claxton, announced on January 4.

The Regular Reserve is designed to make available immediately additional trained men should mobilization or partial mobilization be put into effect. It will consist of men who have completed an engagement with the Active Force and who do not wish to re-engage for full-time service but are willing to serve in the Regular Reserve.

Former serving soldiers of the Active Force who were released prior to the formation of the new force may enroll providing they are acceptable and not more than two years has elapsed since their release from the Active Force. This period of two years will be reduced to one year on June 30, 1954.

Members of the Regular Reserve will be enrolled for three-year periods and will carry the rank and trade qualification they held on release from the Active Force.

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ARMY SENIOR APPOINTMENTS: A shift in appointments for two senior Canadian Army officers was announced by Canadian Army Headquarters. Lt.-Col. N.G. Wilson-Smith, DSO, MBE, 37, now General Staff Officer at Headquarters Western Command in Edmonton, will take over a similar appointment at Headquarters 1st Canadian Infantry Division, Petawawa, Ontario. Lt.-Col. D.N.D. Deane-Freeman, CD, 37, now Commanding Officer of Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians) (2nd Armoured Regiment) at Calgary, will be appointed General Staff Officer at Headquarters Western Command.

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WHEAT STOCKS: Visible supplies of Canadian wheat on December 23 totalled 371,064,000, up sharply from the preceding year's corresponding total of 251,502,000 bushels, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

Overseas export clearances of wheat during the week declined to 1,546,000 bushels from 2,457,000 at the same time in 1952, and cumulative clearances to December 24 dropped to 94,298,000 bushels from 123,665,000 a year ago.

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Directors of the International Tuna Cup Match decided at their annual meeting held in New York that the 1954 match - 11th in the series which began in 1937 - will be held on September 8, 9 and 10 at Wedgeport, Nova Scotia.

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Railway employees earned an average \$3,126 in 1952, \$64, or 2% more than in 1951.