

OCTOBER IMPORTS DOWN: Value of Canada's commodity imports declined 7% in October and slightly over 8% in the first 10 months of 1954 as compared with a year earlier, according to final figures on the month's imports by the Bureau. Total value for October was \$333,100,000 versus \$358,300,000 a year ago, bringing the January-October total to \$3,384,400,000 versus \$3,693,000,000.

A 5.5% drop in volume was the main factor in reducing the total value of imports in October, prices being down 1.4%. In the January-October period, volume averaged 8.5% lower than in 1953 but prices were slightly higher.

Imports were lower in value both in October and the 10-month period from the United States, the United Kingdom and Latin American countries as a group, but higher from other Commonwealth countries as a whole, European countries and the remaining group of foreign countries.

Among the main commodity groups there were increased values for agricultural and vegetable products, non-ferrous metals and products, and chemicals and allied products. Among the larger decreases were iron and products and non-metallic minerals and products. In the 10-month period, two-groups - agricultural and vegetable products and wood and paper - rose in value, largest decreases occurring in fibres and textiles, iron and products, non-ferrous metals and non-metallic minerals.

FROM UNITED STATES

October imports from the United States fell to \$234,864,000 from \$258,252,000 and in the 10-month period to \$2,444,859,000 from \$2,729,948,000. Over the 10-month period all group values were lower except those for agricultural and vegetable products and wood and paper, the largest decreases being in fibres and textiles, iron and products, and non-metallic minerals.

Purchases from the United Kingdom dropped in October to \$31,520,000 from \$36,782,000 a year earlier and in the 10 months to \$332,163,000 from \$376,188,000. A large part of the decrease in the 10 months occurred in fibres, textiles and products and iron and products.

October imports from all other Commonwealth countries rose to \$18,955,000 from \$18,418,000 in the corresponding month in 1953 and in the 10-month period to \$152,567,000 from \$144,347,000.

Purchases from Latin American countries were lower in value both in October and the 10-month period. The month's value was \$21,894,000 versus \$22,169,000, bringing the 10-month total to \$236,218,000 versus \$242,693,000. Imports from Venezuela - largest source of supply - were slightly lower in October but higher in the 10-months.

Imports from European countries climbed in October to \$17,576,000 from \$16,179,000 and in the 10 months to \$145,850,000 from \$141,961,000. There were increased purchases in the month and cumulative period from the Federal Republic of Germany, Italy and the Netherlands, but reduced imports from Belgium and Luxembourg and Switzerland.

From the remaining group of foreign countries imports were valued in October at \$7,198,000, up from \$5,859,000, raising the cumulative total to \$60,455,000 from \$50,720,000. Japan and the Netherlands Antilles accounted for most of the increase. Purchases from Lebanon declined.

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SALMON WEALTH: After half a century of intensive fishing the salmon of British Columbia continues to provide enormous yields which account for some \$40,000,000 a year to the fishing industry.

Dr. A.W.H. Needler, director of the Pacific Biological Station, Nanaimo, B.C.; reported, however, to the Fisheries Research Board of Canada's annual meeting in Ottawa that more precise knowledge was necessary to keep salmon stocks at their maximum production.

To acquire a better understanding of what is necessary to keep the British Columbia salmon fishery at its peak, Dr. Needler said that the number of young salmon produced by known numbers of spawners have been and are being studied in several British Columbia streams and lakes with varying conditions. Emphasis is being placed on sockeye salmon, with the pink and chum species next in research importance. In 1954, 9,500,000 sockeye were caught by British Columbia fishermen.

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GENTLER PARACHUTE: Paratroopers of the Canadian Army will "hit a new kind of silk" when they make their next continuation training jumps this month.

The new 'chute almost completely eliminates the opening "jerk" and oscillation while in the air. The rate of descent is considerably slower with the result that landings are much more gentle. It was developed in the United States and is now manufactured in Canada.

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There were 179 academic libraries in Canada at last count and they had 7,387,887 books on their shelves, about 79 volumes per student.

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Among the nine butter producing countries of the world Canada ranked fourth in domestic disappearance in 1953 with a per capita figure of 21 pounds.