

REPORTED IN PARLIAMENT BRIEFLY

monthly average for the year 1947.

Value of domestic merchandise exported during the month was \$235,400,000 compared with \$266,200,000 in December and \$208,600,000 in January, 1947. The month's export trade exceeded the monthly average for 1947 by \$4,200,000.

The overall commodity trade balance with all countries was favourable to Canada to the extent of \$33,000,000, compared with \$76,700,000 in December and \$36,700,000 a year ago. Favourable balance with the United Kingdom was \$43,400,000 compared with \$52,500,000 in December and \$36,300,000 in January, 1947. The debit balance with the United States was \$43,200,000 compared with \$33,900,000 in December and \$55,800,000 in January last year.

CHINA GRATEFUL: A message of appreciation for Canadian relief assistance to China has been received by the Canadian Ambassador in Nanking, Mr. T.C. Davis, from the Director-General of the Chinese National Relief and Rehabilitation Administration in Shanghai, Mr. P.H. Ho, the Department of External Affairs announces.

In a letter to Mr. Davis, Mr. Ho said:

"The closure of CNRRA operations gives me an opportunity to express to you, and through you to your Government, my appreciation and that of the Administration for the great contribution your country has made to relief and rehabilitation in China.

"The material contribution from your Government has been a large one, but of equal importance to us has been the work of the Canadian nationals who have worked shoulder to shoulder with us during the past two years. Some of these have been programme personnel, who have had an opportunity of serving directly with their Chinese colleagues and in this way they have added to the success of this aspect of our Programme, which is one that has always been very close to our hearts. We know that the pattern which we have worked out in this connection will be one which can be followed whenever foreign assistance is given to China in the future.

"I am sure you share my satisfaction with the establishment of the Trusteeship and the Rehabilitation Commission which will be in a position to continue the work of UNRRA and CNRRA in certain long-term projects."

MISS SCOTT WELCOMED HOME: Enthusiastic crowds thronged Ottawa streets when Miss Barbara Ann Scott arrived home from her skating triumphs in Europe.

There was a good deal of hatred abroad, Prime Minister Mackenzie King said at the civic lunch given in Miss Scott's honor but "Barbara Ann has shone forth like a bright star in a troubled world.

"You have given us courage and strength and

have made us realize the discipline and trials you have had to undergo", the Prime Minister remarked. "The road to success is the road of discipline. It has been in the nature of an inspiration".

Just two months ago when he wired congratulations to the skating star competing in the European championship in Czechoslovakia, no one could foresee the events which had taken place during the past week in that country.

"The mention of Prague suggests how quickly the scene has changed and it helps to bring to our minds also the contribution that Barbara Ann has made to the international situation", he added.

In Europe, Miss Scott won the European, Olympic and World figure skating championships for women.

IMMIGRATION TOTALS: Latest official totals of immigrant arrivals announced by the Immigration Branch of the Department of Mines and Resources show that 11,072 Displaced Persons had been welcomed to Canada by the end of February.

Of this figure, 3,432 people came to close relatives already residing in the Dominion, 400 were orphan children, and 7,240 were workers who were brought to this country in response to requests submitted by various industries.

The workers comprised the following groups: Domestic 1,264; wood-workers, 3,564; textile workers, 200; garment workers, 581; garment workers' dependents, 409; miners, 705; railway workers, 214; steel workers, 91; steel workers' dependents, 7; foundry workers, 64; hydro workers, 141.

Twenty-six per cent of the immigrants, or 2,830, are of Polish origin, the next largest racial group being Ukrainians, who numbered 2,620. Another large group were Lithuanian, their numbers totalling 1,614.

More than one-half of the Displaced Persons, 6,054, went to Ontario. Quebec received the next largest number, 3,058, and 920 have gone to Manitoba.

FOOD AND DRUG CONTROLS: Dr. C.A. Morrell, chief Dominion analyst and director of the food and drugs divisions of the Department of National Health and Welfare, has left on a six weeks' visit to the United Kingdom and Europe during which he will discuss with government officials abroad Canada's food and drug controls.

Several times in recent months, National Health Minister Martin reveals, Canada has had to refuse entry to imported goods because they did not conform to Canadian standards, regarded as among the highest in the world. By consultation with governmental control agencies abroad, it is hoped that Dr. Morrell may eliminate some of these difficulties and lessen the problems of international trading.

HOUSE DEBATE ON ADDRESS ENDS: Debate on Address in the House of Commons which began December 8 ended March 9. From time to time, since it began, the debate was interrupted to make way for emergency Government legislation.

The Address was adopted on a vote of 107 to 95 -- Government majority 12. Progressive Conservatives, C.C.F. and Social Credit members voted in the negative.

Earlier in the week, Mr. Speaker Fauteux ruled the Social Credit sub-amendment (C.W.B. March 5, p. 1) out of order on the ground that it was not relevant to the question on which the original amendment was proposed.

Mr. Low appealed and the Speaker's ruling was sustained by 107 to 89.

After further debate, the House divided on Mr. Brackett's non-confidence amendment. This was defeated by 101 to 85.

Mr. Shaw then again moved his previous sub-amendment, this time as an amendment to the main motion.

Mr. Speaker ruled it out of order on the ground that it was an encroachment on the Governor General's prerogative to recommend expenditures.

From this ruling, Mr. Low appealed.

The House sustained the Speaker by 108 to 74.

MAIN ESTIMATES TABLED

TOTAL OF \$1,985 MILLION: The Minister of Finance, Mr. Abbott, tabled the Estimates for the fiscal year 1948-49 following the close of the debate on the Address from the Throne. The total of these Estimates is \$1,985,146,060, which represents a decrease of more than \$131 million from the total Estimates submitted for the fiscal year 1947-48. Further Supplementary Estimates for the fiscal year now closing are still to be submitted to the House of Commons, and it may be expected that, in accordance with the usual experience, Supplementary Estimates for the new year 1948-49 will later be found necessary to cover requirements that cannot now be foreseen.

The principal decreases in the Estimates for next year as compared with the year now closing are to be found in the items for the Departments of Veterans Affairs, Reconstruction, Finance, External Affairs and Agriculture. They arise largely from the lower amounts required for food and cost of living subsidies, relief to Europe, and for the closing out and contraction of various demobilization and reconstruction activities, as well as a reduction in the number of veterans still drawing benefits, gratuities and re-establishment credits. The principal increases are to be found in the Departments of Mines and Resources, Health and Welfare, Revenue, Public Works and Transport, as well as in votes for government-owned enterprises. Major increases are associated with

higher old age pensions, more families receiving Family Allowances, more health services to Indians, an expanded Income Tax administration, expanded survey and mapping work, improved roads and facilities for tourists in National Parks, extension of Indian education, increased costs for operation maintenance, repair and improvement of public works, construction and improvement of airports and air services, and essential reconstruction of maritime ports.

EXPENDITURES CURTAILED

In his press statement on these Estimates, Mr. Abbott emphasized that the Government was curtailing its expenditures severely at this time, notwithstanding increases in the cost of goods and services it pays for, because of the need to hold in check the inflationary pressure of total expenditures, both private and public. Particular efforts were made in preparing and in revising the Estimates to keep to a minimum expenditures on construction and on capital equipment, in view of the excessive demands upon Canadian capacity in these fields and the need to conserve expenditure of U.S. dollars on imported equipment and materials. As a consequence, many public works and other important construction projects are being deferred until a later period when labour and materials will be more readily available for them. The only new capital projects included in the Estimates are those which are regarded as so urgent that they must be carried out at this time notwithstanding the scarcity of labour and materials and the desirability of deferring all works that can possibly be deferred. Expenditures are being permitted on the planning and design of construction and equipment projects whose execution is being deferred, in order that they may be carried out without delay when economic conditions are suitable.

CHANGE IN PROCEDURE

In the case of the Department of National Defence, a change has been made in the Estimate procedure which recognizes the fact that in this Department, particularly under current conditions, it is necessary to have commitment authority in excess of the amount that will probably be expended during the year. Under established practice, each vote in the Estimates not only sets a limit upon the expenditures for that purpose in the year but also upon the contracts and other commitments that may be undertaken which may require payment during that year, even though it may later turn out that payments were not in fact required. During the present fiscal year, for instance, the actual expenditures of the Department of National Defence are likely to fall slightly below \$200 million although the Estimates made provision for \$243 million. For the new fiscal year, account is being taken of