

TRADE BALANCE IMPROVED

Canada's commodity exports were slightly higher in value in April than a year earlier, while imports were sharply lower, resulting in a further substantial decline in the import balance, according to preliminary figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

Total exports in April were valued at \$376,900,000 as compared to \$372,500,000 in April last year, bringing the aggregate value for the four months this year to \$1,468,700,000 or about 1.5 per cent below last year's comparable total of \$1,491,000,000. Imports for the month, in contrast, dropped over 16 per cent in value to an estimated \$450,000,000 from \$537,200,000 a year ago, lowering the cumulative value for the January-April period 13.4 per cent to \$1,643,000,000 from \$1,896,500,000. The import balance for April thus fell more than half to \$73,100,000 from \$164,700,000 last year and for the four months was 57 per cent smaller at \$174,300,000 compared to \$405,500,000.

Most of the drop in imports and in the import balance was in trade with the United States. Exports to the United States in April increased slightly to \$231,700,000 from \$228,600,000 last year, while imports from that country fell off almost 20 per cent to an estimated \$315,500,000 from \$392,800,000. As a

result, the import balance decreased nearly half to \$83,800,000 as against \$164,200,000. In the four months ending April exports to the United States were practically unchanged at \$887,300,000 compared to \$889,500,000, but imports were 17 per cent lower at \$1,179,600,000 versus \$1,422,000,000 and the import balance was down to \$292,300,000 from \$532,500,000 in 1957.

Shipments to the United Kingdom declined moderately in April to \$51,800,000 from \$54,200,000, the four-month total amounting to \$209,800,000 compared to \$215,900,000 last year. The month's imports from the United Kingdom also were slightly lower at \$50,300,000 against \$52,300,000, leaving the cumulative total fractionally higher at \$166,300,000. The export balance for April, like last year, was smaller at \$1,500,000 against \$1,900,000, and for the four months amounted to \$43,500,000 versus \$49,800,000.

Major change in exports was in shipments to other Commonwealth countries. These rose in April to \$24,800,000 from \$17,600,000 and in the four months to \$99,700,000 from \$70,600,000. Imports from these countries, however, were down slightly in the month at \$18,100,000 and in the four months declined to \$54,200,000 from \$61,600,000.

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ELECTRIC ENERGY FORECAST

Total net generating capability in Canada rose 9.9 per cent between 1956 and 1957 to 16,469,000 kilowatts from 14,983,000, according to the fourth annual report titled "Electric Power Survey of Capability and Load" which is based on a survey conducted by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics in co-operation with the Canadian Electrical Association.

This survey embraces all producers of electric energy in Canada which generate 10,000,000 kilowatt hours or more per annum. The 1958 report is based on returns from 128 companies, half of which are utilities and the other half industrial establishments which generate power primarily for own use. These 128 producers account for approximately 99 per cent of total generation in Canada.

Further annual increases totalling 42.6 per cent over the next four years are expected to result in a net generating capability in 1961 of 23,484,000 kilowatts. The proportion of thermal generation to the total is expected to rise from 14.1 per cent in 1957 to 21.1 per cent in 1961. Companies reporting for the first time this year accounted for 134,000 kilowatts or 0.8 per cent of the total 1957 net generating capability.

Firm power peak load within Canada stood at 14,925,000 kilowatts in 1957, an increase of

7.2 per cent over the 1956 total of 13,917,000. The forecast for 1961 is 19,526,000 kilowatts, an estimated rise of 30.8 per cent. The indicated reserve rose to 1,394,000 kilowatts from 975,000 in 1956. By 1961 it will have risen to 3,851,000 kilowatts, a reserve equivalent to 16.4 per cent of net capability as compared with this year's 8.5 per cent.

A gain of 5 per cent raised the firm energy requirement to 86,333,000 kilowatt hours in 1957, an amount considerably less than the 91,834,000 kilowatt hours forecast a year ago. Firm energy requirement is now expected to increase to 114,478,000 kilowatt hours by 1961, a level approximating that forecast for 1960 one year ago.

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FESTIVAL STARTS JULY 19

Vancouver's four-week International Festival gets under way July 19, and is expected to attract thousands of visitors from all parts of the world. Principle attractions will be the many distinguished performers taking part, including Brumo Walter, George London, Marcel Marceau, William Steinberg, the National Dancers of Ceylon and many others.

Three theatres, two auditoria and a ballroom will be used by the 400 actors, musicians and dancers taking part in the festival.