

JULY EXPORTS DOWN 17.4% FROM LAST YEAR

IMPORTS DROP 15%: Canada's foreign commodity trade was again lower in value in July than a year earlier, continuing the downtrend of earlier months this year, according to preliminary figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Both exports and imports declined in value, but the drop in dollar value of exports was greater than of imports resulting in an increased import surplus.

Total exports in July amounted to \$329,100,000, down \$69,200,000 or 17.4% from \$398,300,000 in July last year. Commodity imports had an estimated value of \$344,600,000, a drop of \$60,800,000 or 15% from \$405,400,000. The estimated import surplus for the month thus increased to \$15,500,000 as compared with \$7,200,000 a year ago.

In the seven months ending July exports had an aggregate value of \$2,204,900,000 this year, a decrease of \$213,100,000 or 8.8% from \$2,418,000,000 last year, while imports were down an estimated \$225,900,000 or 8.6% to \$2,396,100,000 from \$2,622,000,000. The cumulative import surplus was thus apparently reduced moderately to \$191,200,000 this year as compared to \$204,000,000 last year; but there was a more substantial real decline in the seven-month import balance if allowance is made for the effect of a non-recurring change in the practice of compiling imports in June.

Commodity sales to the United States declined to \$194,900,000 in July as compared to \$212,700,000 a year ago, while commodity purchases fell more sharply to an estimated \$243,-

600,000 against \$286,500,000, thus reducing the month's estimated import surplus to \$48,700,000 compared to \$73,900,000 last year. January-July exports aggregated \$1,229,700,000 compared to \$1,422,300,000, and estimated imports \$1,748,900,000 against \$1,958,900,000, the estimated import surplus falling to \$409,200,000 from \$536,600,000.

Exports to the United Kingdom dropped sharply in July to \$55,400,000 as compared to \$81,300,000 last year, and imports were off to \$35,700,000 from \$47,100,000, the export surplus being thus cut to \$19,700,000 from \$34,200,000. In the seven months exports were down to \$346,600,000 from \$397,100,000 and imports to \$239,500,000 from \$266,700,000, making a reduced export surplus of \$107,100,000 this year as against \$130,400,000 in the 1953 period.

July exports to other Commonwealth countries dropped to \$17,900,000 from \$23,200,000, making a seven-month total of \$111,100,000 against \$144,000,000. Estimated imports in the month were down slightly to \$16,100,000 compared to \$17,900,000, but in the seven months were up to \$96,900,000 as against \$94,400,000. Trade with all other countries showed a similar trend, exports declining in the month to \$60,900,000 from \$81,100,000 and in the seven months to \$407,500,000 from \$454,600,000, while imports were off in the month to \$49,200,000 from \$53,900,000 but up moderately in the seven months to \$310,800,000 from \$302,000,000.

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CHARGE D'AFFAIRES IN WARSAW: The Department of External Affairs announced on August 20, the appointment of Mr. Jean-Louis Delisle as Chargé d'Affaires a.i. at the Canadian Legation in Warsaw to succeed Mr. Thomas LeM. Carter, M.C.; who is returning to Ottawa for duty in the Department.

Mr. Delisle was born in Quebec City in 1912. He graduated from the Quebec Seminary, Laval University and from Oxford University which he attended as a Rhodes Scholar. Prior to joining the Department of External Affairs in November 1942 he lectured at Laval University and at the University of Ottawa. Mr. Delisle was with the Canadian Embassy, Rio de Janeiro, from 1946 to 1949 and has been Canadian Consul in Boston since 1951.

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Physical output, as measured by gross national product in constant dollars, was 34% higher in Canada in 1953 than in 1946, while the increase in the U.S. over the same period amounted to 29%. From mid-1953 to the end of the first quarter this year there has been a decline of about 2% in this country and 4% in the U.S.

ARCTIC SURVEY SHIP: Canadian Vickers Limited, Montreal, are the successful tenderers for the construction of a twin-screw surveying vessel for the Canadian Hydrographic Service at a basic price of \$3,922,088. The ship, which is expected to be in operation during the 1956 navigation season, will be especially constructed in the heavy ice of Canadian Arctic waters and will have a cruising range of 14,000 miles, sufficient for a full season's charting in northern waters without refueling.

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The wooden casket, thought to have contained the missing bones of St. Jean de Brebeuf, Jesuit missionary-martyr, has been discovered in excavations at Fort Ste. Marie, near Midland, Ont.; the more than 300-year old Jesuit headquarters in Huronia.

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Appointment of Brigadier Charles Stephen Booth, C.B.E., E.D., senior Canadian representative to the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) at Montreal as Assistant Deputy Minister of Transport, is announced by the Minister of Transport.