

SEVEN MONTHS OF HOME BUILDING: Nearly 10,000 more homes were built in Canada during the first seven months this year than in 1948, an estimated 46,326 units being completed as compared with 36,601 last year, the Bureau of Statistics reported on October 12. Starts were down slightly to 49,285 as compared with 49,452.

Completions were more numerous in all provinces in the first seven months of this year than last, Ontario leading with a total of 16,411 as against 13,810, followed by Quebec with 12,775 as against 9,755. Total for the Prairie Provinces was up to 8,704 compared with 5,628, British Columbia to 5,709 compared with 5,590, and the Maritimes 2,727 compared with 1,818.

The number under construction in Ontario at the end of July was 22,543 compared with 19,505 a year ago, followed by Quebec with 15,227 compared with 13,175, British Columbia 7,437 compared with 8,616, the Maritime Provinces 3,852 compared with 4,501, Alberta 5,105 compared with 4,637, Manitoba 2,751 compared with 3,069, and Saskatchewan 2,298 compared with 2,083.

FOREIGN TRADE IN AUGUST: The Bureau of Statistics stated on October 13 that Canada had a favourable balance on total world trade of \$41,900,000 in August, up sharply from \$12,800,000 for July and more than double last year's August balance of \$20,000,000. Largest since last December, the month's credit balance equalled the cumulative balance for the previous seven months, bringing the total for January-August to \$83,700,000, which compares with \$197,200,000 for the corresponding period of 1948 and \$121,600,000 for that of 1947.

Canadian purchases from the United States declined in August for the second successive month but were moderately higher than a year ago, while exports were substantially above July and only slightly above August last year. As a result, the trade deficit with the United States dropped to \$26,600,000 from \$54,200,000 in July but was above last year's August total of \$20,300,000, and the aggregate deficit for the eight months increased to \$389,100,000 as against \$277,100,000 in 1948. These figures compare with \$644,500,000 for the first eight months of 1947.

Trade with the United Kingdom in August yielded a credit balance of \$37,100,000 as compared with \$41,700,000 in July and \$27,900,000 in August last year. In spite of increases in the three months from June to August, the aggregate balance for the eight months this year was lower than last year at \$253,000,000 compared with \$276,000,000.

In trade with all other countries, Canada had an increased favourable balance of \$31,400,000 as compared with \$25,300,000 in July and \$12,400,000 a year earlier, the cumulative total for the eight months amounting to \$219,800,000 as against \$198,300,000 last year.

(C.W.B. October 21, 1949)

Total merchandise imports during August were valued at \$212,100,000 down nearly nine per cent from \$230,900,000 in July; but above the 1948 August total of \$206,500,000. For the eight months ended August imports amounted to \$1,852,400,000 as compared with \$1,701,700,000 last year, an increase of nine per cent.

August imports from the United States were up in value to \$143,600,000 in comparison with \$136,100,000 in August last year, but sharply down from this year's July and June figures. Purchases from the United Kingdom in the month increased moderately to \$26,200,000 compared with \$24,700,000 a year earlier, raising the total for the year to date to \$218,800,000 as compared to \$193,200,000 last year. Canadian purchases from Latin America dropped to \$15,287,000 from \$20,374,000 in August last year. Imports from Europe maintained the advance of the previous seven months, rising in the month to \$6,195,000 from \$4,660,000 and to \$57,200,000 from \$38,000,000 in the eight months.

By commodity groups, the largest increases over last year were again in iron and its products and the miscellaneous commodities group, while the non-metallic minerals group showed the largest decrease. (For August exports, see Canadian Weekly Bulletin Vol. 4, No. 48, P. 5).

EMPLOYMENT AT AUGUST 1: Employment in the major industrial divisions showed a slightly upward movement at the beginning of August as compared with a month earlier. The increase of 0.1 per cent in the working forces reported by 20,425 leading establishments, however, was considerably below the average for midsummer in the experience of the years since 1920, being also less than the gain indicated at August 1, 1948, the Bureau of Statistics reported.

Improvement was shown in all provinces except New Brunswick and Ontario. Industrially, there was expansion in mining, communications, transportation, construction and maintenance, hotels and restaurants and wholesale trade. The largest advance was that of four per cent in construction, in which the increase was less than usual for the time of year. The gain in mining resulted from the resumption of operations in asbestos fields in Quebec following the settlement of prolonged labour-management disputes. The trend was downward in retail trade, logging and manufacturing, the losses in retail stores and logging being seasonal in character.

"SATURDAY NIGHT" IN NEW FORMAT: On October 7, the Canadian weekly "Saturday Night" appeared for the first time in a new shape like that of "Maclean's" and the "Saturday Evening Post". Mr. B.K. Sandwell continues as editor-in-chief, assisted by three associate editors in special fields: Mr. P.M. Richards (Business), Mr. Michael Barkway (Ottawa), and Mr. Wilson Woodside (Foreign).

CANADA - DENMARK AGREEMENT: The Department of External Affairs announced on October 17 that Canada and Denmark have concluded an agreement modifying their visa requirements for temporary visitors.

Beginning October 15, Canadian citizens who are bona fide non-immigrants (visitors, not seeking employment or permanent residence) and who are in possession of valid Canadian passports may, without previously obtaining a Danish visa, visit Denmark for periods each not exceeding three consecutive months. However, visas are still required for entry into Greenland and the Faroe Islands.

Danish citizens, who are bona fide non-immigrants coming to Canada and who are in possession of valid Danish passports, will receive, from the Canadian Legation in Copenhagen, visas free of charge, valid for an unlimited number of entries to Canada during a period of twelve months from the date of issue of visas.

This agreement in no way exempts Canadians or Danish citizens from the necessity of complying with the Immigration and residence regulations of Denmark and Canada. In this connection it should be noted that a Canadian citizen must obtain special permission to re-enter Denmark within three months of his departure therefrom, if, in the six months period prior to his departure, he had visited Denmark for an aggregate period of three months.

Earlier this year Canada concluded similar arrangements with Switzerland and Sweden.

NATIONAL PARKS POPULAR: Of the million and a half persons who visited the National Parks of Canada up to the end of August this year, it is estimated that more than 23 per cent came from the United States and countries abroad. These figures are contained in a statement recently compiled by the National Parks Service, Department of Mines and Resources, Ottawa.

Much of the increase in the number of visitors is due to the recent expansion of facilities for recreation and accommodation in the Parks. Additional accommodation includes new hotels, bungalow cabins, camp-grounds and trailer parks. In the field of recreation, greater opportunities are being provided for outdoor enjoyment by the construction of bowling greens, outdoor swimming pools, children's playgrounds, and athletic fields and by improvements to bathing beaches, golf courses and tennis courts. A broad programme of highway and trail improvements in the Parks has also been carried out by the National Parks Service, in order to facilitate sight-seeing by motor-car, bicycle, saddle pony, and on foot. Re-stocking park waters with sport fish, and consistent use of modern methods employed in fish culture have assured good angling. Winter sports have been given new stimulus by the improvement of ski jumps, ski runs, and

ski tows. In Banff National Park, Alberta, the new chair-lift on Mount Norquay is proving a great attraction for both summer and winter visitors.

Extensive highway construction and improvements throughout Canada, particularly highways which lead to National Park areas, are regarded as important factors contributing to this year's increase in the number of park visitors.

FARM PRICES DOWN: Farm prices of agricultural products averaged lower in August than in the preceding month and August last year, according to index numbers compiled by the Bureau of Statistics. The decline in August continued the down-trend shown since the first of the year, but there was a slight rise over the annual average for 1948.

The all-Canada index number for August, on the base 1935-39=100, is estimated at 253.2 as compared with 253.7 in July and 263.9 in August last year, the high point for the index. It was 257.5 in January this year, and averaged 252.5 during 1948.

As compared with August last year, prices were lower for grains, dairy products and potatoes, relatively unchanged for livestock and slightly higher for poultry and eggs. Compared with the preceding month, August prices were lower for grains, livestock and dairy products and higher for potatoes, poultry and eggs.

CANADA - ARGENTINE AGREEMENT: The Department of External Affairs announced on October 17 that an agreement has been reached between Canada and the Argentine for the avoidance of double taxation on shipping profits.

Under the terms of this Agreement the Argentine Government undertakes not to tax Canadian concerns on the profits they earn by operating ships or aircraft to Argentina. Similarly Canada will exempt from income tax the revenue received by Argentine ships and aircraft carrying to and from Canada.

The Agreement is retroactive to January 1, 1946, and covers profits earned since that date.

MOTOR VEHICLE SALES: Sales of new motor vehicles and financing of sales of new and used motor vehicles in August were sharply higher than in the corresponding month last year. The sales, however, showed a steep decline as compared with the level of the previous five months. This August down-trend was apparent in 1947 and 1948 also, and can be traced largely to the shutting down of motor vehicle manufacturing plants during late July and early August for employee vacations, the Bureau of Statistics reports.