

**FOREIGN TRADE DOWN:** Canada's foreign commodity trade was lower in value in April than in the corresponding month last year, according to preliminary figures for the month released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics on May 27. Estimated imports were down 9% to \$358,000,000 from \$391,800,000, and total exports were off a slight 2% to \$298,200,000 from \$304,800,000. The result was a reduced overall import surplus of \$59,800,000 as compared with \$87,000,000 a year ago.

Cumulative figures for the January-April period followed a generally similar pattern, with estimated imports from all sources down 8% to \$1,282,100,000 from \$1,389,700,000, and total exports 4.5% lower at \$1,164,500,000 compared with \$1,218,700,000. The four-month import surplus declined to \$117,600,000 from last year's \$171,000,000.

**TRADE WITH U.S.**

Commodity trade with the United States was lower in value both in April and the four-month period. April's imports from the United States were cut to \$265,300,000 from \$297,200,000 last year, while total exports fell more moderately to \$181,800,000 from \$192,300,000, the import surplus being reduced to \$83,500,000 from \$104,900,000. In the four-month period, estimated imports were off to \$956,600,000 from \$1,060,300,000, total exports to \$719,000,000 from \$767,300,000, and the import surplus was \$237,600,000 against \$293,000,000.

April's imports from the United Kingdom were slightly lower in value at \$36,300,000 compared with \$38,000,000, and total exports fell to \$39,600,000 from \$45,400,000, resulting in a lower export balance of \$3,300,000 in contrast to \$7,400,000. In the four-month period, imports were down to \$124,400,000 from \$133,200,000, exports were up to \$175,400,000 from \$170,000,000, and the credit balance on the period's trade moved up to \$51,000,000 from \$36,800,000.

Imports from other Commonwealth countries were a shade higher in April at \$14,700,000 as compared with \$12,500,000, and total exports were up to \$18,900,000 from \$16,300,000. In the four-month period, imports climbed to \$43,800,000 from \$41,700,000, but exports were off to \$56,500,000 from \$72,800,000. Purchases from all other countries in April were moderately lower at \$41,700,000 compared with \$44,100,000 a year earlier, but exports increased to \$57,900,000 from \$50,800,000. In the January-April period, imports from these countries rose to \$159,300,000 from \$154,500,000, and exports advanced to \$213,600,000 from \$208,600,000.

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Coal supplies dwindled to a 13-year low of 38,163,000 tons last year, about two and a half tons per Canadian.

**CANADA-U.S. TRADE:** Canada-U.S. trade was the basis of a question by the Leader of the Opposition, Mr. George A. Drew, and answer by the Prime Minister, Mr. L. S. St. Laurent, in the House of Commons on May 31. The two leaders spoke as follows:

Mr. Drew: "I wish to direct a question to the Prime Minister and to ask him if he can amplify the information which has been given to the press and is contained in a statement in a Canadian Press despatch that federal officials said today that if the curbs receive Presidential approval Canada will have to consider some form of economic readjustment, possibly a withdrawal of tariff concessions equivalent in physical and psychological value to the United States restrictions imposed."

Mr. St. Laurent: "No, Mr. Speaker, I know of no such information given by Canadian officials to the press. All I would care to say at this time is that the Canadian Government is aware of the latest developments in Washington relating to commodities of interest to Canada. We are, of course, very much concerned about the possibility, although I would not say the probability, of any action being taken against our exports and I may say that the United States Government is fully aware of our views. We have kept almost continuously in touch with the U.S. administration on these matters generally and have emphasized our attitude in cases directly involving our trade. I am confident that in arriving at his decisions the President will take into account the wider considerations involved, including the repercussions on friendly countries. I am sure that he will be anxious to avoid actions which would seriously affect the trade of Canada and other allied countries."

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**"SHAKE-DOWN" MANOEUVRES:** Two days of "Shake-Down" manoeuvres have just ended for Canada's 25th Infantry Brigade in Korea, testing the forces communications and operational fitness.

Hot daytime temperatures and chilly "October-like" nights prevailed as the Canadians moved through the hills and valleys bounding their sector of the front, rehearsing the various phases of fighting under closely simulated battle conditions.

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**SIGNS ROME CONVENTION:** Canada has become the twenty-first state to sign the Rome Convention of 1952, according to an announcement made in Montreal on May 26 by the International Civil Aviation Organization. The convention, concluded in Rome in October 1952, specifies the rules and the limits of liability in the case of an aircraft causing death or personal injury or damage to property in foreign territory.