

## FOREIGN TRADE HIGHER IN APRIL

**INCREASE OF 9.3 PER CENT:** Canada's total foreign trade in April was valued at \$483,000,000, showing an increase of 9.3 per cent over the corresponding month last year, according to figures released by the Bureau of Statistics. Aggregate value for the first four months of this year moved up to \$1,813,800,000 from \$1,707,400,000 in the similar period of 1948, or 6.2 per cent.

Both imports and domestic exports were higher in the month and four-month period. The advance in the value of imports was seven per cent in April and nearly 12 per cent in the cumulative period. The value of exports was up 12 per cent in April, and one per cent in the four months.

Imports for consumption from all countries in April were valued at \$242,700,000 as compared with \$226,700,000 in the corresponding month last year, and in the four months at \$908,400,000 compared with \$212,300,000 a year ago, and in the four months at \$896,600,000 compared with \$884,400,000 last year.

Foreign commodities were re-exported in April to the value of \$2,484,000 compared with \$2,752,000 in the same month last year, and in the four months at \$8,828,000 compared with \$11,009,000.

With imports slightly higher than domestic and foreign exports, Canada had a small deficit of \$2,400,000 on the month's foreign trade with all countries as compared with a deficit of \$11,600,000 in April last year. There was also a small overall debit balance of \$3,000,000 in the four months ending April as compared

with a favourable balance of \$83,400,000 in the like period of 1948.

The debit balance with the United States was \$5,100,000 on the month's trade as compared with a deficit of \$48,000,000 in the corresponding month last year, and in the four months totalled \$197,900,000 compared with \$155,900,000 a year earlier. The credit balance with the United Kingdom in the month was \$33,400,000 compared with \$19,800,000 a year ago, and in the four months, \$96,600,000 compared with \$134,800,000 a year ago.

Total values of imports from both Commonwealth and foreign countries were higher in April than a year earlier, and there were gains in six of the nine main commodity groups. Purchases from Commonwealth countries advanced to \$44,400,000 from \$39,500,000 in the corresponding month last year, and in the four-month period to \$159,700,000 from \$132,100,000. Amount from foreign countries in the month was up to \$198,300,000 from \$187,200,000, and in the four months to \$748,700,000 from \$679,900,000.

Imports from the United Kingdom during April continued the upward climb of the three previous months this year, amounting to \$30,120,000 compared with \$28,343,000 in March and \$24,641,000 a year ago. Total for the four months was up to \$106,786,000 from \$85,703,000.

Imports from the United States in April rose to \$177,293,000 from \$159,461,000 in the corresponding month last year, and in the four-month period to \$659,863,000 from \$584,583,000.

**THREE U.S. SHIPS TO ARCTIC:** The Department of External Affairs announced on June 29 that three United States ships will spend about two months in northern waters this summer. Sailing from United States and Canadian east coast ports in July they will supply fuel and provisions to the joint weather stations in the Canadian Arctic that have been established there since 1947. The stations are maintained by the Canadian and United States Governments, and representatives of Canadian Government departments will take part in the expedition. The senior Canadian representative will be Mr. J. W. Burton of the Northwest Territories Administration, Department of Mines and Resources, Ottawa.

The ships, the U.S.S. "Edisto", an ice-breaker, the U.S.S. "Wyandot", a transport, and the U.S.S. "LST-533", serving as a cargo vessel, will be under the command of Captain Basil N. Rittenhouse, U.S.N., embarked in the "Edisto".

The expedition will carry north the yearly

stock of Canadian and United States supplies required by the four joint weather stations now in operation at Prince Patrick Island, Ellef Ringnes Island, Cornwallis Island and Ellesmere Island. If conditions are favourable, the icebreaker may also endeavour to land additional supplies at Alert, the site near Cape Sheridan (northern Ellesmere Island) chosen last summer for a weather station to be put into operation at some future date. This site has been given its name in honour of H.M.S. "Alert", one of the ships of the British explorer, Sir George Nares, who in 1875-6 carried out the first survey of the north coast of Ellesmere Island.

The U.S.S. "Edisto" will carry helicopters to facilitate navigation through the ice, and if time permits, will investigate routes to and sites for possible future weather stations.

The "Edisto" will be commanded by Commander W. F. Morrison, U.S.N.; the U.S.S. "Wyandot" by Commander T. S. Webb, U.S.N.; and the U.S.S. "LST-533" by Lieutenant J. E. Vautrot, U.S.N.