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EXPORTS UP \$73 MILLION

Canada's commodity exports reached record levels in 1957, rising close to \$73 million over the preceding year, but imports declined nearly \$76 million from 1956's peak, according to preliminary summary figures for 1957 released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The over-all result was a substantial drop in the import trade balance from the record total for 1956.

Total commodity exports for the year rose to \$4,936,000,000, up \$72,900,000 (1.5 per cent) from the previous record value of \$4,863,100,000 in 1956. In dollar terms, larger exports to the United States and other foreign countries more than offset reduced shipments to the United Kingdom and other Commonwealth countries.

Imports from all countries in 1957 were estimated at \$5,629,700,000, down \$75,700,000 (1.3 per cent) from the record total of \$5,705,400,000 in 1956. Smaller purchases from the United States more than offset larger imports from other main geographic areas.

The overall import surplus with all countries, on the basis of present estimates for imports, amounted to an estimated \$693,700,000, down sharply from the previous year's record total of \$842,300,000 but close to double 1955's \$361,100,000. It was the fifth successive import balance and the seventh in the post-war period. Last export surplus in 1952 amounted to \$325,500,000.

Commodity exports to the United States in

1957 climbed to a new high total of \$2,943,-500,000 from \$2,879,100,000 in the preceding year, while imports declined to \$4,007,700,000 from the all-time peak of \$4,161,700,000 in 1956. The import balance thus dropped to \$1,064,200,000 from the preceding year's record total of \$1,282,600,000.

Exports to the United Kingdom fell in 1957 to \$742,700,000 from \$818,400,000 in 1956, but imports climbed to \$521,300,000 from \$484,700,000. The resulting customary export balance dropped sharply to an estimated \$221,400,000 from \$333,700,000 in the preceding year.

Total exports to all other Commonwealth countries in 1957 eased to \$236,500,000 from \$245,200,000 in 1956, but imports from these areas rose to \$237,600,000 from \$221,200,000. There were marked increases in trade with other foreign countries, total exports climbing to \$1,013,300,000 from \$920,400,000 and estimated imports to \$863,100,000 from \$837,800,000.

In December, total exports to all countries increased to \$453,300,000 from \$410,600,000, with increases to \$246,000,000 from \$235,900,000 to the United States, to \$114,200,000 from \$80,000,000 to other foreign countries, and to \$28,600,000 from \$19,700,000 to other Commonwealth countries. Exports to the United Kingdom fell to \$64,500,000 from \$75,000,000. Total estimated imports were valued at \$395,300,000, down from \$401,900,000 a year earlier. Imports from the United States declined to