

the largest programme this year (\$927 million). There has been a general increase in housebuilding in the whole country for the first four months of 1961 compared to the same period in 1960. Housing starts in the Western provinces for this period are up to 6,086 as compared to 4,098 in the same period last year.

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STRATFORD EXHIBITS

A typical country house of early nineteenth-century Quebec will be reconstructed this month in the arena at Stratford, Ontario, as the focal point of "The Arts of French Canada," one of the two exhibitions to be held during the 1961 Stratford Shakespearean Festival.

Prefabricated and moved into position in sections, the house will consist of four rooms—kitchen, summer kitchen, bedroom and guest room authentically decorated, with original furnishings, to illustrate how the first settlers of Lower Canada lived. Visitors will see pictures and pottery, pots and pans, butter-churns and bedspreads, lamps and looms of the period. Besides these articles of household use, there will be many farm implements to give a complete picture of the farmer's life -- wooden ploughshares, pitchforks, yokes and harnesses. Many of these implements bear French names that have long gone out of use, just as the tools themselves are obsolete in the machine age.

A long time in the planning, the exhibit has been made possible through the co-operation of several private collectors, including Robert-Lionel Séguin, of Rigaud, Quebec, who is acting as supervisor. Assistance is also being extended by the National Museum in Ottawa.

But the exhibit in the Festival arena will not be devoted entirely to the past. A generous portion of its space has been set aside for the modern age, specifically for a display of paintings by 25 Quebec artists. More than 50 canvases will be hung, some of them valued as high as \$5,000. The following artists will be represented: Edmund Alleyn, Léon Bellefleur, Ghitta Caiserman, A.R.C.A., Stanley Cosgrove, A.R.C.A., Jean Philippe Dallaire, Jacques de Tonnanour, Paul V. Beaulieu, Albert Dumouchel, Marcelle Ferron, John Fox, Pierre Gendron, Henry W. Jones, Jean-Paul Lemieux, Rita Letendre, Arthur Lismer, R.C.A., John Lyman, Marcelle Maltais, John McEwen, Guido Molinari, Guy Mongeau, Alfred Pellan, Jean-Paul Riopelle, Goodridge Roberts, R.C.A., Marion Scott and Philip Surrey.

Across the road from the Festival arena, the Festival exhibition hall will once again be devoted to a display of books and theatrical mementoes. Robert Ihrig, Stratford artist and designer, who supervises the exhibits, intends that the 1960 season shall provide the main features for a large display of costumes and properties from "Romeo and Juliet," "King John" and "A Midsummer Night's Dream," last year's Festival plays. Mr. Ihrig plans to mount tableaux of costumes from the three plays, which were designed by Tanya Moiseiwitsch and Brian Jackson. Costume sketches from the current season will also be shown.

In the same building, Canadian handicrafts will again be presented, and a large part of the floor area of the exhibition hall will be occupied by an exhibit of books by Canadian publishers, Shakespearean books from the collection of Sidney T. Fisher of Montreal, and "The Festival Exhibition of Music," presented by the Canadian Music Publishers Association.

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EXPORTS AND IMPORTS

Canada's total exports to all countries during the first quarter of 1961 were valued at \$1,265,600,000, a decline of 2.0 per cent from last year's corresponding total of \$1,291,500,000. Imports for the period January-March of this year were estimated at \$1,288,100,000, 2.9 per cent less than imports for the first quarter of 1960, when the total value was \$1,326,200,000. Thus the import balance in the first three months of 1961 declined to \$22,500,000 from \$34,700,000 for the same quarter of the preceding year.

Exports to all countries in March 1961 were valued at \$438,400,000, only slightly less than \$439,500,000 recorded in March 1960. Exports rose 8.3 per cent in January but declined 13.5 per cent in February. Imports in March 1961 were valued at \$461,800,000, a decrease of 2.6 per cent from the March 1960 total of \$473,900,000. January imports this year were 7.9 per cent above those for 1960, but February 1961 imports dropped 12.5 per cent below those in the same month of the previous year.

Exports to the United States declined by 12.5 per cent in the first quarter of 1961 to \$671,900,000, compared with \$768,300,000 for the first three months of last year. Imports from the United States for the first quarter of this year dropped 4.3 per cent, being valued at \$899,800,000 as contrasted with \$940,400,000 in January-March 1960. Canada's import balance with the United States thus stood at \$227,900,000 for the first quarter of 1961, compared to \$172,100,000 for the corresponding period last year. Comparing the first quarters of 1961 and 1960, the United States share of Canada's exports declined to 53.1 per cent from 59.5 per cent and the proportion of Canada's imports accounted for by that country fell to 69.9 per cent from 70.9 per cent.

TRADE WITH U.K.

Exports to the United Kingdom in the first three months of the current year increased by 18.8 per cent, being valued at \$248,600,000 as compared with \$209,300,000 in the corresponding period of 1960. Imports from the United Kingdom, at \$141,700,000, declined 0.4 per cent from the January-March 1960 total of \$142,200,000. Canada's export balance with the United Kingdom in the first three months of the current year advanced to \$106,900,000 from \$67,100,000 in the same quarter of 1960. Over the two periods, the proportion of Canada's exports going to the United Kingdom increased to 19.7 per cent from 16.2 per cent and the share of Canada's imports from that country rose to 11.0 per cent from 10.7 per cent.

Exports to the Commonwealth (excluding the United Kingdom) rose by 31.7 per cent, totalling