

IMPORTS FROM U.S. REDUCED

RESULTS OF DOLLAR SAVING PLAN: "Imports into Canada in December were valued at \$194.2 millions, \$35 millions down from the November total", the Minister of Trade and Commerce Mr. C.D. Howe announced February 6. "Imports from the United States fell by \$33 millions and, with an increase of \$13 millions in December exports, the monthly trade deficit with that country was reduced from \$80 millions in November to approximately \$34 millions in December."

The statement went on to say that, although the December figures showed that restrictions imposed by the government on November 17th were taking effect, it would be unwise to assume that imports could be maintained at the December level throughout 1948. "A certain amount of abnormal stockpiling of imports undoubtedly took place in October and November, which would account in part for a natural slowing down in the general movement of imports subsequent to the imposition of restrictions. It should also be noted that December imports normally tend to be lower than those in the two preceding months, and this seasonal factor may have contributed to the decline."

The statement continues: "Total Canadian imports for 1947 were at an all time high of \$2,574 millions, 33 per cent above the previous record year of 1946. Imports from the United States were valued at \$1,975 millions, a 40 per cent increase over 1946, and represented an even larger proportion of total imports than in the preceding year. The distribution between countries was approximately as follows: United States, 77 per cent; United Kingdom, 7 per cent; other British Commonwealth countries, 7 per cent, and all other countries, 9 per cent."

The steady increase in prices in many commodities throughout the year was, of course, one of the principal factors accounting for the marked increase in total value of imports. It is difficult to establish an index comprehensive enough to cover the vast list of commodities which Canada now imports, but there is reason to believe that average prices for 1947 imports were approximately 20 per cent higher than in 1946.

On a commodity basis, there were few significant changes in the composition of imports over the preceding year, although manufactured goods showed a greater proportionate increase than primary materials, fuels and foodstuffs.

Petroleum and its products, third group in importance in 1946, headed the list in 1947, with imports at \$207 millions against \$124 millions in 1946. Miscellaneous non-agricultural machinery increased to \$206 millions in 1947 from \$130 millions in 1946. Third group in dollar value comprised raw cotton and cotton manufactures, at \$180 millions, compared with \$119 millions in 1946. Other important groups with 1946 values shown in parenthesis, were automobiles, trucks and parts, \$168 mil-

lions (\$98), coal, coke and products, \$154 millions (\$133), farm implements and machinery, \$105 millions (\$68).

ALIENS ILLEGAL ENTRY

APPEALS DISMISSED: The Minister of Mines and Resources, Mr. Glen, has dismissed the appeals of seven aliens who recently entered Canada by fraudulent means. They will be deported when arrangements are completed.

The investigation which resulted in the arrest at Toronto of Maniek Kuper, Morduch Szyja Szulc, Israel Cholewa and wife, Giny, Arthur Magat, Alter Abramowitz and Dawid Fajtlowicz was conducted by the R.C.M.P. following the receipt of information from official sources overseas that a conspiracy existed to bring aliens to Canada from displaced persons camps in Germany by fraudulent means. The aliens named were arrested under the provisions of the Immigration Act and examined by an Immigration Board of Inquiry at Toronto, the Board ordering deportation in each instance on the grounds that the person examined had entered Canada by misrepresentation. While two of the aliens had come from Great Britain via the United States and five had travelled from Germany via France and Newfoundland entering Canada by air, the evidence given by each person was similar. They all admitted they had been approached by the same person who, for a substantial sum, offered to obtain entry documents and secure their admission to Canada. The documents furnished were British passports secured by illegal means in the names of British subjects born in the British Isles and admission to Canada was secured by the presentation of these false passports at the Canadian port of entry by the aliens named.

The Minister said that in his review of the cases he had given full consideration to the natural desires of the five aliens who had come direct from Germany to get away from the conditions under which they were living. The same incentive did not, however, apply to the other two as they had been residing in the British Isles for several years. Mr. Glen added that he could not overlook two important factors in reaching a decision, namely, that the investigation had clearly established the appellants were not the innocent victims of an unscrupulous person because they had knowingly paid for false passports and assistance furnished in securing their fraudulent entry into Canada; secondly, it is known there are others who are attempting to effect admission to Canada by the same illegal means.

Mr. Glen further pointed out that Canada has provided for the admission of a very considerable number of displaced persons from Europe, many of whom have been examined and approved and are patiently awaiting transportation facilities. It would be unthinkable to allow any person to secure advantage over

these people by fraudulent means. Any other attitude would not only be most unfair but would encourage further efforts on the part of those who would reap financial and other benefits from this illegal procedure.

IMMIGRATION OFFICE IN ROME: Facilities for the examination of immigrants from Italy have been established in Rome.

The new immigration office, which will be known as the Canadian Legation Visa Office, will be under the direction of an officer of the Immigration Branch, J.F.R.R. Robillard. Attached to his staff will be a Canadian doctor from the Department of National Health and Welfare.

Mr. Robillard is a native of Ottawa and, prior to his appointment in Rome, was attached to the Immigration Office in London, England. He joined the Immigration service on the 18th of July, 1946, following his discharge from the Hastings and Prince Edward Island Regiment. He is now in Rome.

RESEARCH COUNCIL'S NEW DIVISION: A Radio and Electrical Engineering Division has been established by the National Research Council. Head of the new Division is E.G. Ballard, O.B.E., B.Sc., who has been in charge of the electrical engineering laboratory since his appointment to the staff in 1930.

Creation of this Division has become necessary because of the great expansion of research activities in the fields of electronics and electrical engineering. The new Division is a consolidation of work formerly carried on in the Division of Physics and Electrical Engineering. Advances in radio techniques and related fields, which were so outstanding during the war broadened the scope of this work until it became first a branch and now a full division.

Radar has been applied in air and marine navigation on an extensive scale. Studies of solar noise have provided opportunities for basic research in co-operation with the astronomers. General electronic applications have been developed for military as well as civilian purposes. High voltage impulse studies on electrical equipment are yielding valuable information which is especially useful to the power industries. There has also been a considerable development of new instruments, and the shops' services, in the construction of models and equipment, have been greatly enlarged.

FERTILIZER PRICE ROLL BACK: Wartime Prices and Trade Board announces a roll back in the price of certain types of fertilizers and basic chemical ingredients of compound fertilizers in eastern Canada. The lower prices are already in effect.

As a result of this and other action taken,

board officials state that the price of commonly used compound fertilizers, on which no formal ceiling is being set, will average about eight per cent higher than the prices prevailing in the spring of 1947, despite the increased cost of materials imported from the United States and the discontinuance of fertilizer subsidies.

Under the new price regulations, ammonium nitrate will cost Maritime farmers \$74.50 per ton, a reduction of \$16.50 from the high level established in September, 1947. Prices in Quebec and Ontario are being reduced by \$16.45 and \$12.45 per ton respectively. The processor's price of cyanimid is being reduced from \$2.15 to \$1.80 per unit (20 units per ton) f.o.b. Niagara Falls.

Prevailing prices of other fertilizer materials, on which no formal ceilings are being set, will be slightly above those prevailing a year ago. Superphosphate will cost the consumer 5 per cent more than one year ago; muriate of potash 6 per cent to 8 per cent more, depending on freight charges, and the consumer price for sulphate of ammonia, will be about 13 per cent higher.

CANSO STRAIT BOARD: Mr. Lionel Chevrier, Minister of Transport, and the Premier Angus L. Macdonald, of Nova Scotia, have announced the appointment of the personnel of the Board of Engineers to review the plans of the Department of Transport for betterment of transportation facilities at the Strait of Canso (C.W.B. January 30, 1948). The Board consists of the following members:-

- Professor D.S. Ellis, Dean of Engineering, Queen's University, Kingston, Ont.
- Dr. Arthur Surveyor, Consulting Engineer, Montreal.
- Dr. P.L. Pratley, Consulting Engineer, Montreal.

The two former are appointed by the Dominion Government and the latter by the Province of Nova Scotia.

RCAF FLYERS WIN HOCKEY OLYMPIC: The R.C.A.F. Flyers captured the hockey championship in the fifth Winter Olympics at St. Moritz. The Dominion thus regained a championship lost in 1936.

The hockey victory raised Canada's total in the final team standing to 24½ points -- 10 for the hockey championship, 10 for Barbara Ann Scott's figure-skating conquest, four for a third place in mixed pairs figure skating and one-quarter of a point gained in speed skating.

Canada finished ninth among the 28 countries competing at St. Moritz, 13 of which did not score a point.

The standing: Sweden 82, Switzerland 77, United States 73½, Norway 69½, Austria 51, Finland 49, France 39, Italy 25, Canada 24½, Belgium 18, Great Britain 15, Hungary 10, Czechoslovakia 10, Holland six and Poland one.