

**IMPORTS IN MAY REACH RECORD \$420,600,000.**

**5-MONTH TOTAL UP:** Canada's merchandise imports from all countries in May climbed to a record monthly value of \$420,600,000, a rise of almost nine per cent over last year's high May value of \$386,000,000, according to final figures on imports for the month released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The large May imports raised the cumulative total for the first five months of 1953 to \$1,810,300,000 as compared with \$1,626,100,000 in the like 1952 period.

Average prices of imported merchandise in May were narrowly below a year earlier, but volume climbed almost 11 per cent. During the January-May period prices of imports averaged 5.6 per cent below those of a year ago, but volume averaged more than 17 per cent higher.

May imports were substantially higher in value from the United States, the United Kingdom, some Latin American and European countries, but smaller from most other Commonwealth and foreign countries. Five-month totals followed similar trends.

Purchases from the United States in May climbed to \$312,315,000 from \$282,893,000 a year ago, bringing the cumulative total for the January-May period to \$1,372,615,000 as compared with \$1,222,498,000. There were larger totals in May for six of the nine main commodity groups, while five-month totals show gains for seven and decreases for two. The iron products group -- by far the largest -- rose in value in May to \$137,578,000 from \$129,999,000, and in the five-month period to \$593,513,000 from \$541,704,000.

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**FIELD MARSHAL HARDING:** Britain's Chief of the Imperial General Staff, Field Marshal Sir John Harding, GCB, CBE, DSO, MC, ADC, will arrive in Montreal at the end of the month for a 13 day visit to Canadian military establishments and services colleges it was announced by Army Headquarters and the War Office on August 21.

During the period between August 31 and September 12, the Second World War corps commander and former commander of the British Army of the Rhine in Germany, will visit Army Headquarters, Ottawa, and training establishments between Montreal and Victoria, B.C.

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Canadians enjoy one of the lowest rates for electric service in the world. In the U.S. the average revenue per kilowatt hour sold to residential customers was 2.81 cents in 1951 as against 1.65 cents in Canada, while commercial and industrial sales averaged 1.4 cents per kilowatt hour in the U.S. as compared with 0.6 cents in Canada.

Imports from the United Kingdom rose in May to \$43,534,000 from \$33,217,000, and in the January-May period to \$176,760,000 from \$129,867,000. Except for a decrease in May in the miscellaneous commodities group, gains were general in the main commodity classes both in May and the five-month period. Fibres and textiles, and iron and products showed the largest gains in both periods.

Imports from all other Commonwealth countries declined in total value in May to \$17,629,000 as compared with \$20,189,000 a year earlier, while January-May purchases were off to \$59,334,000 as compared with \$74,949,000. There were slightly larger imports in May from Jamaica, British Guiana, Ceylon, Malaya and Singapore and Australia, but sharply reduced purchases from Barbados, Trinidad and Tobago and New Zealand.

Imports from Latin American countries were narrowly higher both in May and the five months. The May value was \$27,680,000 compared with \$27,029,000 a year ago, while that for the January-May period totalled \$114,503,000 compared with \$113,671,000. There were increased imports in May from Argentina, Colombia, Cuba and Venezuela, but smaller imports from Brazil and Mexico.

May imports from European countries were moderately lower in value at \$14,763,000 as compared with \$15,575,000, but higher in the five-month period at \$63,975,000 compared with \$59,647,000. There were larger purchases in May from France, Federal Republic of Germany, Italy, Netherlands, and Switzerland, but smaller imports from Belgium and Luxembourg.

**CANADIAN COMMANDER HONOURED:** The Canadian commander who liberated Deventer, Holland, from the Germans in April, 1945, returned there on August 21 to reclaim his status as a free man of the city.

He is Brig. T.G. Gibson, CBE, DSO, CD, now Deputy Chief of Staff, who during the Second World War led the 7th Canadian Infantry Brigade in its push across Holland and into Germany.

Immediately following the war, Brig. Gibson returned to Deventer and at a special ceremony was made a free man of the city and a street was named in his honour.

On August 21 the Brigadier, who soon takes over as the new commander of Western Ontario Area, returned to Deventer on leave and was welcomed by the provincial Governor, Burge-meester, Aldermen and the Commander of the local Netherlands Army garrison.

He was taken on a police-escorted tour of the city and was guest of honour at an informal civic dinner.