

MARCH EXPORTS BELOW LAST YEAR'S

BUT ABOVE FEBRUARY'S: Canada's total domestic exports declined in value in March to \$216,800,000 from \$228,400,000 in March last year, but showed the usual increase over the preceding month when the value stood at \$205,000,000. The month's decline, following upon a small increase over a year ago in January and a slightly larger decrease in February, lowered the cumulative value for the first quarter of the year to \$658,800,000 compared with \$672,000,000 in 1948.

Further gains in the value of shipments to the United States over last year were recorded during March, according to returns released by the Bureau of Statistics, and increases in exports to Latin America, and to Commonwealth countries in Africa and Asia. However, these were offset by a marked falling-off in exports to the United Kingdom and Europe as a whole, and smaller losses in shipments to the British West Indies.

Exports of animals and animal products were sharply lower in March than a year ago and there were smaller decreases in the fibres and textiles, wood and paper, non-metallic and miscellaneous groups. The iron and its products group showed a sizeable gain in value, while the agricultural and vegetable products, non-ferrous metals and chemical groups were moderately higher.

Exports to the United States in the month were valued at \$122,418,000 as compared with \$112,519,000 in the corresponding month last year, bringing the cumulative figure for the first quarter to \$345,150,000 as against \$312,333,000 a year earlier. The increase in the month was 8.8 per cent, and in the first quarter, 10.5 per cent.

March exports to the United Kingdom were valued at \$39,498,000, down a third from last year's corresponding total of \$59,182,000. First-quarter total was \$139,435,000 as compared with \$175,790,000 a year ago.

BERLIN PROPERTY CLAIMS: The Department of External Affairs announced on May 5 that the Allied Kommandatura in Berlin on February 16 issued an Order to the City authorities concerning claims to be made by victims of Nazism who were deprived between January 30, 1933, and May 8, 1945, of identifiable property in Berlin because of their race, religion or political opinions. The Order does not apply to property having a total value of less than RM. 1,000 at the time it was confiscated.

Under this Order all persons who were so deprived of their property may now file their claims for restitution with the Treuhaender der Amerikanischen Britischen und Franzoesischen Militaerregierungen Fuer Zwangsverbertragene, Vermoegen, Berlin W. 30, Nuernberger Strasse 53/55. Claims in respect of property in any

The combined value of exports to India and Pakistan continued to show marked gains, the March total standing at \$6,750,000 compared with \$584,000 a year ago, raising the cumulative figure for the first quarter to \$26,993,000 from \$4,043,000. March total for the Latin American countries as a group was \$9,778,000, up 11.6 per cent over last year, and the three-month cumulative figure rose moderately from \$26,159,000 to \$26,442,000.

There was a general decrease in the value of exports to European countries in March, the aggregate for the area falling off from \$19,949,000 a year ago to \$9,204,000, and in the first quarter from \$72,364,000 to \$43,103,000. Shipments to Belgium and Luxembourg fell from \$3,095,000 in March last year to \$1,609,000, Czechoslovakia from \$1,523,000 to \$73,000, France from \$2,880,000 to \$1,648,000, Italy from \$1,599,000 to \$532,000, Netherlands from \$4,744,000 to \$692,000, Norway from \$1,103,000 to \$803,000, and Switzerland from \$1,499,000 to \$460,000. Exports to Germany rose from \$316,000 to \$1,958,000.

Among the individual commodities there were gains in wheat, alcoholic beverages, seeds and cattle both in the month and quarter, while bacon and hams and shell and processed eggs were down sharply in both comparisons. Planks and boards and wood pulp were lower, while newsprint paper exports continued above last year's level.

Exports of farm implements and machinery were well above 1948 values, while the exports of other types of machinery and automobiles and parts were lower in the month and quarter. Aluminum exports were off in both periods, but copper, nickel and zinc all moved up. Lead exports were lower in the month but higher in the quarter. Asbestos exports were down sharply, while the value of fertilizers was well ahead of last year.

part of Berlin will be accepted by the Claims Registry at the above address, but in present circumstances it will not be possible to take any further action in respect of property in the Eastern Sector of the City.

Any person who has already registered his claim to restitution of property in Berlin with the Central Claims Registry for the British Zone at Bad Nenndorf need not submit to Berlin a fresh claim in respect of the same property.

Present owners of property subject to the Order and persons who have knowledge of such property are required within 6 months of the date of the Order to file at the above address in Berlin, declarations in triplicate of the circumstances leading to its present ownership.

SEAMEN'S STRIKE STATEMENT: The following joint statement was issued on May 3 by the Minister of Labour, Mr. Mitchell and the Minister of Transport, Mr. Chevrier, on the Canadian Seamen's Strike:

The Ministers of Labour and Transport desire to call to the attention of the public and of the seamen concerned the fact that strikes at sea or in ports abroad, in disobedience of the lawful orders of the master, are in violation of the Canada Shipping Act.

For the protection of the seamen themselves, the Act requires that no seaman shall be discharged in a port abroad without the approval of the proper authority and until necessary provision has been made for his repatriation to Canada.

It is a fundamental principle of the law of every seagoing nation which is accepted by every true seaman that strikes at sea or in ports abroad resulting in the refusal of seamen to obey the master's orders must not occur. Such action endangers the lives of the passengers, officers and crew, the safety of the ship and its cargo. Under the Canada Shipping Act seamen must obey the orders of the master until the voyage is completed. Everyone who has knowledge of the ways of the sea accepts and supports this principle. The Canadian Merchant Marine cannot be built up or maintained unless this principle is followed. Accordingly, the law provides that the voyage must be completed and the ship and cargo placed in security at her terminal port in Canada before the members of her crew can engage in a lawful strike.

LAW OF CANADA

The law of Canada is now being violated by members of the Canadian Seamen's Union taking part in strikes aboard Canadian ships in ports abroad.

Public statements have been made by the Minister of Labour in the House of Commons and in a press release explaining the facts of the seamen's strike, and stating that the Canadian Seamen's Union had complied with the provisions of the Industrial Relations and Disputes Investigation Act before calling the strike. However, this does not permit seamen to violate the provisions of the Canada Shipping Act which requires every seaman to obey the lawful orders of the master nor justify the action of leaders of the Union in calling seamen out on strike on ships in ports abroad or in counseling seamen to disobey the lawful orders of the master.

At the present time there are approximately ninety ships which sail out of Atlantic coast ports. Of this number some fifteen are tied up by illegal strikes in ports abroad. The crews, by going on strike, are violating the law of Canada and are subject to the penalties provided by law.

ELECTION BROADCASTING DECISION: Allocation of free network time among national political parties for the federal election campaign has been decided at a meeting of party representatives with CBC officials, it was announced on May 4 by A.D. Dunton, Chairman, Board of Governors, Canadian Broadcasting Corporation.

On national network facilities, including affiliated private stations, a total of 14½ hours will be provided. The total is divided among the parties as follows: Liberals 5%; Progressive Conservatives 4%; C.C.F. 3%; Social Credit 1½.

The division of time was agreed among the party representatives, with differing opinions recorded regarding the White Paper formula for setting a ratio. The agreed division differed from the ratio which would have resulted from the White Paper formula.

The series of free network time for the election campaign begins on May 9 and ends on June 24.

Party representatives worked for several hours at the meeting on May 3 with CBC officials on the complicated details of election broadcasting. The agreed schedule includes both half-hour and quarter-hour periods, the bulk in the evening with a few in the afternoon. Some periods are scheduled on the Dominion Network apart from those on the Trans-Canada Network, and there are corresponding periods on the French Network to all those on the English Language networks.

SCHOLARSHIP TRUST: Creation of the Royal Canadian Engineers' Memorial Scholarship Trust, open to final year students in 10 Canadian Universities and Royal Military College, has been announced by Col. H.W. Love, OBE, Chief Engineer of the Canadian Army, on behalf of the Corps of Royal Canadian Engineers. The scholarships are to be awarded in memory of all ranks of the Corps who gave their lives in the Second World War.

VOCATIONAL TRAINING: Aided by federal funds provided under the Federal-Provincial Canadian Vocational Schools Assistance Agreements, opportunities for Canadian youth to obtain vocational training are being greatly increased by the erection of new schools or additions to existing schools throughout Canada, it was reported to educationalists from all parts of Canada attending a two-day meeting of the Canadian Vocational Training Advisory Council which ended in Ottawa on May 4.

Chairman of the meeting was Dr. G. Fred McNally, Chancellor of the University of Alberta.

A total of thirty-five new buildings and forty additions to existing school buildings are now at various stages of completion throughout the country.