

## CANADA'S FOREIGN TRADE IN MARCH

**DEBIT BALANCE:** Canada's total foreign trade in March was valued at \$454,900,000, showing an increase of 6.3 per cent over the corresponding month last year, according to figures released by the Bureau of Statistics. Aggregate value for the first quarter of this year was up to \$1,330,900,000 from \$1,265,600,000 in the same period of 1948, or by five per cent.

The rise in the value of total foreign trade both for the month and quarter was due to an increase in the value of imports, domestic exports being slightly lower in both periods. In the month the value of imports rose 20 per cent and in the quarter by 13.7 per cent. Domestic exports were down five per cent in the month and two per cent in the quarter.

As a result of the rise in the value of imports and the decline in the value of domestic exports, Canada had a debit balance on her foreign trade of \$16,900,000 in March -- the first since April last year -- as compared with a favourable balance of \$33,900,000 in March, 1948. In the first quarter of this year there was a small overall debit balance

of \$600,000 as compared with a favourable balance of \$95,000,000 in the same period of 1948.

The debit balance on the month's trade with the United States was \$44,900,000 as compared with \$24,200,000 in the corresponding month last year, raising the three-month total to \$132,800,000 from \$107,900,000 in the same period of 1948. The credit balance with the United Kingdom in the month was down to \$11,300,000 from \$37,700,000 in the same month last year, and in the first quarter to \$63,200,000 from \$115,000,000.

Imports for consumption from all countries in March were valued at \$235,900,000 as compared with \$197,100,000 in the same month last year, and in the first three months at \$665,700,000 compared with \$585,300,000. March total for domestic exports was \$216,800,000 compared with \$228,400,000, and in the first quarter, \$658,800,000 compared with \$722,000,000.

Foreign commodities were re-exported in March to the value of \$2,200,000 as compared with \$2,500,000 a year ago, and in the first quarter to \$6,300,000 compared with \$8,300,000.

853,000 compared with \$48,764,000.

Imports from Europe continued in March the moderate gains of recent months, totalling \$7,541,000 as against \$4,051,000 in 1948, and aggregating \$20,105,000 for the three months compared with \$10,814,000 last year.

**ARTILLERY BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION:** The anniversary of the formation of the original Royal Regiment of Artillery in 1716 will be celebrated in Stanley Park Armories, Vancouver, on the evening of May 26. The celebration is being sponsored by the Vancouver Artillery Officers' Association.

**DRIED MILK PRICE:** The federal Government has authorized the Agricultural Prices Support Board to purchase dried skim milk at a price of 9.5 cents per pound for roller and 10.75 cents for spray, f.o.b. country points, up to a total expenditure of \$1,000,000, it was announced on May 21.

This will provide for the purchase of approximately 10,000,000 pounds of the dried product, which it is estimated will clear the market of accumulated surplus stocks and allow adjustment in production for the remainder of the season to meet market demand.

**R.C.A.F. APPOINTMENT:** Air Force Headquarters announced on May 25, the appointment of Group Captain J.B. Harvey, AFC, 37, of Winnipeg, as Senior Personnel Staff Officer of Central Air Command.

**IMPORT TRADE HIGHER:** Showing gains in total purchases from both Commonwealth and foreign countries and increases in seven of the nine main commodity classifications, Canada's imports for consumption during March advanced in value to \$235,900,000 as compared with \$197,100,000 in March last year, bringing the cumulative value for the first quarter of the year to \$665,700,000 as against \$585,300,000 in 1948.

Imports from Commonwealth countries in the month totalled \$43,900,000 compared with \$32,500,000 a year ago, and in the three months rose to \$115,300,000 as against \$92,600,000. Total from foreign countries rose to \$192,000,000 in the month from \$164,500,000 in 1948, and in the quarter to \$550,400,000 from \$492,700,000.

Purchases from the United Kingdom during March continued the upward trend of the two previous months this year, being valued at \$28,343,000 as against \$22,918,000 in February and \$21,601,000 in March last year. Total imports for the first quarter of the year were up to \$76,666,000 compared with \$61,062,000 a year ago.

Imports from the United States in March rose in value to \$168,952,000 compared with \$138,299,000 a year earlier, making the cumulative total for the first quarter \$482,570,000 as against \$425,122,000 last year.

As in January and February, imports from the Latin American countries as a whole declined, falling to \$13,981,000 compared with \$19,136,000 in March, 1948, the total value for the first three months being down to \$41,-

(Continued from P.1)

the Prairie Provinces are lower than in any year since 1941, they are well above the 1931-39 average of 3,300,000. The estimated oats acreage in the Prairie Provinces, however, is the lowest since 1915.

The intended flaxseed sowings of less than half a million acres represented a decrease of 75 per cent from the 1948 acreage of 1,900,000. The greatest decrease is expected in Manitoba where acreage is expected to drop by 80 per cent.

The area of fall rye for harvest in 1949 is placed at 900,000 acres, a decrease of 45 per cent from last year's harvested acreage. Spring rye seeding intentions are down 35 per cent from the 1948 acreage level. For all rye the indicated acreage is 1,200,000 acres, a decrease of 43 per cent from last year.

**U.S.--CANADA COMMITTEE MEETS:** The Department of External Affairs announced on May 25 that the first meeting of the Joint United States-Canada Industrial Mobilization Committee will be held in Washington on June 1. The members of this Committee as previously announced after the exchange of notes between representatives of the two Governments on April 12 are:

- Mr. Harry J. Carmichael, C.M.G., Chairman, Industrial Defence Board of Canada
- Mr. Sydney Pierce, O.B.E., Associate Deputy Minister of Trade and Commerce, Canada
- Dr. John R. Steelman, Acting Chairman, National Security Resources Board of the United States
- Mr. Donald F. Carpenter, Chairman, Munitions Board of the United States.

**CANAL TRAFFIC UP:** Reflecting increased movements of soft coal, iron ores, other ores, gasoline, barley and flaxseed, the tonnage of all freight passing through the Canadian canal systems during 1948 reached 23,559,313 tons, a gain of 2,045,374 tons or 9.5 per cent above the volume recorded in the 1947 season. Last year's tonnage has been exceeded only by the 24,636,462 tons attained in 1938, the Bureau of Statistics reports.

There were 22,643 passages of vessels through the canals during the year compared with 20,874 in 1947, while the net registered tonnage of the vessels was 23,943,307, an increase of 1,533,348 tons. The Canadian locks at the Sault were in use for 244 days, six more than in 1947, while the Welland Ship Canal was open one day more at 272 days, and the St. Lawrence three days less with 234 days.

Passengers on vessels passing at Sault Ste. Marie totalled 63,707 compared with 53,782 in 1947. The Welland Ship canal reported 5,790 passengers against 5,273 in 1947, while the St. Lawrence had 12,417 compared with 13,430 one year earlier. Thousands of pleasure craft were also locked through the canals.

The volume of traffic moving to and from

Lake Superior and Montreal or beyond totalled 451,961 tons during 1948. Traffic using the St. Lawrence only aggregated 4,190,930 tons. That passing through the Welland Ship canal only reached 7,311,821 tons, while the grand total for this canal was 13,373,721 tons, 2,466,753 tons of which used the St. Lawrence and Welland Ship systems, 451,961 tons the St. Lawrence Welland Ship and Sault Ste. Marie, and 3,142,786 tons the Sault Ste. Marie and Welland Ship.

In combination with the four American locks at Sault Ste. Marie, which form an essential part of the Great Lakes system, the grand total of all canal freight traffic during 1948, including traffic using more than one canal, was 137,082,901 tons compared with 130,273,579 tons in 1947, an increase of 6,809,322 tons or 5.2 per cent.

Of the 23,559,313 tons of freight passing through Canadian canals during the year, 87.2 per cent or 20,533,377 tons was carried in Canadian bottoms, and in the Welland Ship canal 79 per cent was in Canadian vessels.

**INTERNATIONAL TRADE FAIR:** Imagine a department store selling everything from costume jewellery and pocket combs to diesel engines and dockside cranes, gathered from 35 different countries throughout the world and spread out on counters and in display groups along a distance of four miles. That in effect is what the Canadian International Trade Fair will resemble most on opening day, May 30, the Trade Fair authorities report. The goods are grouped into 21 trade classifications so that they may be compared and inspected without the potential customers performing a marathon tour.

Like any self respecting department store the Trade Fair closes its door each evening to primp and preen for the morrow's customers. This is carried out to the tune of shuffling feet, swishing brooms, flicking dusters and the whirr of polishing machines, wielded by some 75 expert cleaners who sweep, polish, dust and gather the debris up until six a.m. when it is collected, approximately six truckloads per day, and disposed of by the City garbage collectors. An operation approximately like giving a thorough once-over to 3,333 Canadian living rooms, continues the press release.

So that the merchants who own the millions of dollars worth of goods and produce on display at the Trade Fair may sleep nights without worrying over their openly-displayed merchandise, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, will keep a watchful and expert eye on things.

A delegation of Shanghai merchants have arrived in Toronto to display their products at the Trade Fair. Despite the Civil war raging in China they have advised that they were able to get 36 cases of their wares shipped and arrange their visas and passages.