

## IMPORTS DOWN NEARLY 16 PER CENT IN JULY

**IRON AND STEEL PRODUCTS:** Reduced purchases of iron and steel products, particularly such items as farm machinery, motor vehicles and parts, and engines and boilers, of fibres and textiles, both raw materials and finished products, and a further larger decrease in coal were responsible for the greater part of the drop in Canada's July imports, according to final summary figures for the month released Oct. 8 by the bureau. The greater part of the decline occurred in imports from the United States.

Total imports in the month fell 15.8% to \$341,246,000 from \$405,435,000 in July last year, the decrease of \$64,189,000 being the largest in dollar value this year. The index of average prices (on the base 1948 equals 100) was up slightly to 110.8 from 109.8 last year, so that volume was down 16%. In the seven months ended July imports aggregated \$2,391,358,000, down 8.8% from \$2,261,998,000 for the like 1953 period.

## IMPORTS FROM U.S.

Imports from the United States dropped 16% in July to \$240,557,000 from \$286,528,000, the decrease representing about seven-tenths of the total decrease. In the seven months United States imports were down 11% to \$1,743,338,000 from \$1,958,941,000, the decline of \$215,603,000 comparing with the drop of \$230,640,000 in imports from all countries. In July the values of imports were lower in 1953 in all main commodity groups except agricultural and vegetable products, the sharpest decreases being in the iron and non-metallic mineral groups; the same was true for the seven months except that wood and paper products showed a small increase.

Purchases from the United Kingdom in July fell to \$34,989,000 from \$47,070,000 a year earlier, a sharper decline percentagewise than imports from the United States, but in the seven months showed a smaller decline of 10% to \$239,118,000 from \$266,660,000. The decreases in both periods were spread through most of the main commodity groups with the sharpest

declines in the fibres and textiles and iron and steel products groups.

Imports from all other Commonwealth countries were down moderately in July to \$16,303,000 from \$17,916,000, but for the seven months were up to \$97,111,000 from \$94,373,000. Purchases from the West Indies group showed a substantial gain in July, and those from Asia slight rise, while others were lower. Over the seven months there have been increases for the West Indies group and the African countries as a whole, and declines for the Asia and Oceania groups but gains for India and Australia.

Purchases from Latin America declined in July to \$25,109,000 from \$31,096,000, but in the seven months rose slightly to \$169,973,000 from \$168,824,000. July imports from Europe were moderately lower at \$15,079,000 against \$15,953,000, the seven-month total showing a smaller decrease at \$95,688,000 compared to \$96,220,000. For both geographic areas there were mixed gains and losses in the month and seven months for major supply sources. Imports from the remaining foreign countries as a whole again advanced in July to \$7,483,000 from \$5,950,000, raising the cumulative total to \$38,573,000 from \$32,230,000.

## IRON AND PRODUCTS

July imports of the iron and products group fell to \$114,302,000 from \$150,241,000, the seven-month total declining to \$849,950,000 from \$980,757,000. Major factors in the month's drop were sharp declines in rolling-mill products, engines and boilers, farm machinery, non-farm machinery, automobiles and automobile parts. Pipes, tubes and fittings was a main exception to this trend.

Purchases of the non-metallic minerals group decreased in the month to \$54,382,000 from \$64,589,000 and in the seven months to \$328,479,000 from \$361,366,000, reduced imports of coal and petroleum products accounting for most of both declines.

Imports in the fibres and textiles group dropped in July to \$25,132,000 from \$31,539,000, and in the January-July period to \$193,334,000 from \$247,217,000.

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Canadian air carriers increased their net income by almost 31% in June to \$1,393,660 from \$1,065,055 in the corresponding month last year. This was the first increase since September 1953 and was the result of a reduction in total operating expenses to \$8,547,117 from \$8,823,194, and a small rise in operating revenues to \$9,940,777 from \$9,888,249.

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Teachers in city schools across Canada last year averaged 14 years of teaching experience, 3.7 years less than in 1946.

Production of wheat flour rose 27% in August to 1,812,296 barrels from last year's 1,423,562, but declined slightly from the 10-year average for the month of 1,867,083 barrels. The month's exports dropped to 751,126 barrels from 827,588.

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Five industries, slaughtering and meat packing, petroleum products, flours mills, butter and cheese, and railway rolling stock - account for about half of the total manufacturing production of the Prairie Provinces.