

IMPORTS RISE: Canada's merchandise imports from all countries in March were valued at \$360,100,000 as compared with \$327,000,000 in the corresponding month last year, an increase of 10 per cent, according to final figures on imports for the month released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. This brought the cumulative total for the first three months of 1953 to \$998,000,000 as compared with \$916,100,000, for an increase of nine per cent.

Average prices of imports in the month were five per cent below a year earlier and the volume was 16 per cent greater. In the three months ending March prices of imports averaged about 7.5 per cent lower than in the first quarter of 1952, while volume rose by about 17.3 per cent.

Among the principal sources of supply there were larger purchases in both March and the first quarter from the United States and the United Kingdom, but reduced imports from the Latin American countries. Purchases from all other Commonwealth countries were higher in the month but lower in the quarter as were imports from Europe. Imports from the remaining foreign countries as a whole were up in value in both periods. Gains were widespread among the main commodity groups with increases in each of the nine in the month and in seven of the nine in the quarter.

IMPORTS FROM U.S.

Imports from the United States increased seven per cent in March to \$272,845,000 from \$253,476,000 in the corresponding month last year, and 10 per cent in the quarter to \$763,054,000 from \$693,991,000. Increases were shown for all groups except agricultural and vegetable products, and non-metallic minerals in March and the quarter. Iron and products -- largest of the nine main groups -- rose in value in March to \$120,916,000 from \$115,789,000, and in the quarter to \$324,115,000 from \$301,483,000.

Purchases from the United Kingdom rose in March to \$37,568,000 from \$22,623,000 in the corresponding month last year, and in the three-month period to \$95,279,000 from \$68,248,000 a year earlier. Gains were general among the main commodity groups both in March and the quarter, with the largest increases in fibres and textiles, and iron and products. Motor vehicles accounted for about half of the latter gain, but the increase in textile imports was more widespread.

Imports from all other Commonwealth countries rose in total in March to \$10,937,000 from \$10,749,000 a year earlier, but the three-month value was off to \$29,230,000 from \$41,703,000. In March there were increased purchases from India, Ceylon and New Zealand, but smaller imports from the Union of South Africa, Malaya and Singapore and Australia.

MAPPING RESOURCES: In one of the largest field programmes it has yet undertaken, the Surveys and Mapping Branch, Department of Mines and Technical Surveys, is placing 79 parties in the field this year to carry out surveying and mapping in various areas throughout Canada. The programme comprises 16 geodetic, 46 topographic and 17 legal surveys parties. In addition, the Branch has assigned 16 ships of its hydrographic fleet to continue charting operations in coastal and inland waters.

Twelve topographical parties of the Army Survey Establishment will work in co-operation with the Branch.

"We hope to cover areas across Canada totalling well in excess of 100,000 square miles in our surveys and mapping this year," the Minister of Mines, Mr. George Prudham, stated.

The need for such a large programme, he explained, stems chiefly from the rapid development of Canada's resources in the last few years. To keep abreast of this expansion, new techniques have been developed. Electronic devices such as radar altimetry to measure ground profiles from aircraft, and shoran to measure cross-country distances with speed and accuracy, are coming into increasing use. Helicopters are now almost routine equipment to speed men and supplies to remote areas.

In eastern Canada, shoran will be used this year to carry geodetic control from the important Knob Lake iron ore area, through Ungava to the heart of remote Baffin Island.

Radar altimetry will establish ground profiles over various parts of the country including Cornwallis Island and the difficult terrain of Baffin Island and Labrador.

Areas of northern Alberta and northeastern British Columbia, where the search for oil and gas is being intensified, will be the targets of topographical field parties. More than 69,000 square miles will be covered in these areas, in addition to 34,000 square miles in northern Quebec, Gaspé and parts of New Brunswick.

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TUNA CUP MATCH: Teams from 17 countries have asked for bids to the 10th International Tuna Cup Match at Wedgeport, Nova Scotia, September 9, 10 and 11, the Nova Scotia Bureau of Information has announced. If half this number makes the trip to Wedgeport, it will be the biggest field of entries in the history of the matches, the record having been set in 1950, when seven teams competed.

Definite entries are France, Venezuela, Mexico, the United States, and the British Commonwealth. Belgium, Italy and Spain have notified the committee that they have postponed their entry until the 1954 match.

In the Netherlands, Switzerland, Panama, Peru, Scandinavia, Chile, Argentina, Brazil and Cuba, organizers are at work on the formation of teams.