

wealth. Shipments to the United States went up by 8.4 per cent, but those to other foreign countries remained at the same level as in 1961. Imports from Britain during the October-December 1962 period were nearly a fifth less than in the fourth quarter of the preceding year, but arrivals from the rest of the Commonwealth advanced by an eighth. Imports from the United States in the last three months of 1962 totalled practically the same as in the similar period of the previous year, while arrivals from all other foreign countries were fractionally less. There was, therefore, a large export-trade balance, to which each month in the fourth quarter of 1962 contributed, amounting to \$154,800,000, compared to \$37,400,000 for the October-December period of the preceding year.

#### EXPORTS BY REGIONS

The United States remained Canada's principal trading partner. Total exports thereto in 1962 were valued at \$3,744,700,000 and imports at \$4,309,700,000, both peak figures in Canada's trade with that country and representing increases of 16.5 per cent and 11.5 per cent, respectively, over totals in the preceding year. The growth in exports to the United States was noticeable throughout the year, though the rate of comparative increase was sharper in the first six months. Imports, which rose considerably during the first two quarters, gained more slowly in the third quarter and by the fourth quarter showed some decline. In total, imports to the United States exceeded exports by \$565 million being somewhat less than the 1961 figure of \$649,500,000.

Trade with Britain in 1962 showed only a fractional decline in Canada's total exports, but imports were 9.2 per cent less than in 1961. Exports were valued at \$919,900,000 in 1962 compared to \$921,200,000 in 1961, the decline in the first quarter being almost counterbalanced by the gain in the second and the levelling-out over the second half of the year. Imports dropped to \$561 million from the 1961 figure of \$618,200,000, with a slight fall in the first quarter, a considerable one in the second, a fractional one in the third, followed by a drop of nearly a fifth in the last quarter. There was an export surplus of \$358,900,000 in our 1962 trade with Britain, compared to the surplus of \$303 million in the preceding year.

Trade with the rest of the Commonwealth showed a fractional gain in exports and a 10.4 per cent advance in imports. Exports declined in the first quarter, but gained throughout the remainder of the year, particularly in the fourth quarter, to reach a total of \$335,600,000, compared to \$333,800,000 in 1961. Imports rose steadily during 1962 and were estimated at \$325,200,000, against \$294,500,000 in the preceding year. The export balance was reduced to \$10,400,000 for 1962, compared to \$39,300,000 for the previous year.

Total exports to all other countries were 5.5 per cent less in 1962, being valued at \$1,347,600,000 against \$1,425,700,000. Imports rose 7.8 per cent, amounting to \$1,072,400,000, while

in 1961 their value was \$994,400,000. The export trade surplus was estimated at \$275,200,000, compared to the larger export surplus of \$431,300,000 in 1961.

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#### NEW ATTACK ON FOREST FIRES

Meeting in Ottawa recently, the Associate Committee on Forest Fire Protection of the National Research Council took several steps that could have significant effects on future Canadian developments in forest-fire prevention and suppression.

Thus, the Department of National Defence is being asked to set up and maintain a fully trained and equipped national forest-fire task force to help the provinces put out forest fires before they reach disastrous proportions. The military would be called on to provide men and aircraft. Some of the planes would be used for transportation and others for water-bombing. Committee members are ready to furnish the required technical advice and to assist in training the force.

The need for developing an aircraft specially designed for forest-fire control in Canada will be thoroughly examined. Aircraft now in use have been converted for fire fighting; some are obsolete military planes. As water-bombing has become an essential part of fire fighting, the committee feels that an aircraft should probably be designed for this purpose.

A sub-committee will investigate methods for "slash" disposal and the removal of forest-fire hazards. Slash accumulation poses a serious fire threat in cut-over stands. Disposal methods including "prescribed burning", a method now used in a major forest area of Canada, will be investigated with a view to recommending improvement in the disposal of slash and other hazards.

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#### CREDIT STATISTICS

Balances outstanding on the books of sales-finance companies for commercial goods, small-loan companies for cash loans and instalment credit, department stores, and chartered banks for personal loans were higher at the end of October 1962 than a year earlier. Outstandings of sales-finance companies for consumer goods and furniture and appliance stores were below year-earlier levels.

End-of-October balances outstanding were (in millions): sales-finance companies for consumer goods, \$773 (\$782 at the end of October 1961); sales-finance companies for commercial goods, \$432 (\$399); small-loan companies for cash loans, \$620 (\$535); small-loan companies for instalment credit, \$44 (\$35); department stores, \$372 (\$347); furniture and appliance stores, \$187 (\$189); and chartered banks for personal loans, \$1,630 (\$1,403).