

**MERCHANDISE EXPORTS:** Marked by a sharp increase in shipments to the United States, Canada's merchandise exports in May continued the gains of earlier months this year over 1947, being valued at \$282,300,000 as compared with \$267,800,000 in May last year, according to trade figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The May value -- highest for any post-war month -- brought the aggregate for the year to date to \$1,166,600,000 as against \$1,055,800,000 for the first five months of 1947.

Exports to the United States rose to \$114,711,000 compared with \$79,769,000 in May last year, a gain of nearly 44 per cent, which compares with increases ranging from 24 to 37 per cent in earlier months this year. Aggregate value for the five months ended May was \$536,264,000 compared with \$400,007,000, a rise of approximately one-third.

Contrary to the general upward trend in preceding months this year, shipments to the United Kingdom declined during May to \$85,058,000 compared with \$90,481,000 in May, 1947. Reflecting the earlier gains, aggregate to the end of May amounted to \$305,201,000 as against \$276,444,000 in the corresponding period last year.

#### LATIN AMERICAN GROUP

Exports to the Latin American group of countries increased in May to \$13,226,000 compared with \$10,178,000, reversing the trend of preceding months this year, largest gains being in shipments to Argentina, Mexico and Venezuela. On the other hand, exports to European countries fell off to \$90,694,000 compared with \$97,903,000 last year, making the aggregate for the five months \$120,927,000 as against \$131,296,000 in 1947. Lower figures were also recorded for shipments to Australia, New Zealand, the British West Indies and British Guiana, while those for the Union of South Africa were higher.

Value of exports to leading markets next to the United States and the United Kingdom, (thousands omitted), were as follows: Trinidad and Tobago, \$1,425 (\$3,760); Jamaica, \$1,796 (\$3,092); Union of South Africa, \$7,815 (\$4,887); India and Pakistan, \$2,260 (\$4,435); Australia, \$3,216 (\$5,231); New Zealand, \$1,838 (\$4,917); Argentina, \$3,231 (\$2,001); Mexico, \$2,210 (\$902); Venezuela, \$1,417 (\$1,161); Czechoslovakia, \$2,245 (\$665); France, \$6,541 (\$9,922); Italy, \$2,891 (\$6,448).

**FISHERIES OPERATIONS:** Landings in the sea fisheries of Canada in May amounted to 145,476,000 pounds, about four times the April landings of 35,922,000 pounds, and well above the landings of 127,837,000 pounds in the corresponding month last year, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. May landings brought the aggregate for the year to date to 421,415,000 pounds as compared with 298,476,000 in the similar period of last year.

**EMPLOYMENT AND EARNINGS:** Employment in the eight major industrial divisions in May showed a further decline for the fifth consecutive month, according to a preliminary report on employment and weekly earnings issued by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The index number of employment, based on 1926 as 100, was 185.8 as compared with 186.6 at April 1 and 179.6 at May 1, 1947. Marked seasonal curtailment in logging operations in the eastern and central provinces was an important factor in the generally lower level of employment indicated at the beginning of May.

While the index number of employment at May 1 was fractionally down from the previous month, the index of payrolls showed an increase of 1.4 per cent compared with April, the gain being largely due to the resumption of operations on a more usual scale following the Easter holidays which affected the situation on April 1. The per capita weekly earnings of employees reported in the eight leading industries was \$39.74 at May 1 as compared with \$39.04 at April 1 and \$35.89 at May 1 last year. The most recent average is the highest on record.

The advance index number of employment in manufacturing was 201.7 compared with 202.0 for April and 195.8 for May, 1947. The index of payrolls showed a rise of 2.8 per cent in the month and was 15.9 per cent higher than at May 1 a year ago. The preliminary figure of per capita weekly earnings in manufacturing at May 1 was \$40.75, the highest in the period for which the Bureau's statistics are available. The per capita weekly earnings for April 1 affected by the Easter holidays, was \$39.60 and stood at \$36.27 for May 1, 1947.

**FISHERIES IN 1946:** The value of fisheries of Canada reached a new peak in 1946 with a production of \$121,124,752, an increase of \$7,253,632 or 6.4 per cent over 1945, according to the detailed annual report just issued by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Total quantity of all kinds of fish caught, including shellfish, decreased 1.4 per cent to 13,186,355 cwt., with sea fisheries accounting for 93.1 per cent or 12,273,589 cwt. The fisheries gave employment to 92,819 persons in 1946 as against 85,212 in 1945, although not all of these found year-round employment.

**WHEAT FLOUR PRODUCTION:** Production of wheat flour for the month of May amounted to 1,726,281 barrels compared with 2,610,806 barrels for the same month of last year. This was the second lowest monthly production during the current crop year. Total production for the 10 months of the current crop year ending May was 20,517,603 barrels compared with 23,888,642 barrels for the same period in 1946-47.

Wheat used in the production of flour in May amounted to 7,891,917 bushels compared with 11,678,441 in May, 1947.