

Our Adverse Trade Balance

So far in 1920 an adverse balance of trade is being piled up at the rate of \$20,000,000 a month—Will this be checked when we commence to ship wheat?

BY OUR OTTAWA CORRESPONDENT.

The rapid growth of the Canadian pulp and paper industry is strikingly disclosed in trade returns for July, which cover the period of the last three years ending July 31st.

During the twelve months ending July 1918, the newsprint sent abroad was \$12,806,152 cwts., valued at \$36,414,147; 12 months July 1919, 13,143,385 cwts. valued at \$43,052,000; 12 months July 1920, 14,909,485 cwts. valued at \$60,084,414. Exports of wood pulp have increased as follows: 12 months ending July 1918, 10,941,268 cwts. valued at \$29,302,677; 12 months ending July 1919, 10,827,937 cwts. valued at \$32,020,906; 12 months ending July 1920, 17,875,917 cwts. valued at \$57,919,248. The combined value of the exports of these two countries during these three years was: 1918, \$65,716,824; 1919, \$75,072,906; 1920, \$118,003,662.

While the July returns covering as they do the trade for the twelve months up to the end of that month, do not reflect conditions as they actually exist today, still, in some respects, they may be a better guide to the observer than returns that deal only with the situation from month to month. For example, while an adverse balance of trade is being piled at the rate of over \$20,000,000 a month, it must be taken into account that this may be offset by heavy shipments of wheat and other grain which are sure to go out between now and the end of the year. The true test of the situation is the year, not the month, though the latter is useful, for it discloses a trend.

The returns for the twelve months in question show that up to the end of July exports had been well maintained. Their value was \$1,264,463,537, which while it is \$9,000,000 below that for the preceding year, in reality represents an increase of \$10,000,000 in the value of Canadian exports, the decrease in the total figures being due to a falling off of \$19,000,000 in the value of foreign produce.

The grand total of Canadian trade was \$2,517,655,272, a new record, being \$166,847,226 over the twelve months ending July 1918. There was a remarkable increase in imports, these being \$1,253,191,735, compared with \$870,850,691, for the preceding year and \$914,885,191 for that ending July 1918. The duty collected was \$53,066,734 over that for the preceding 12 months, and this in spite of the fact that the 7½ per cent. customs War Tax was abolished at the middle of May. Imports of dutiable goods show the largest increase being \$291,489,605 in excess of their value for the 12 months ending July 1919, the value of the imports of free goods was \$91,000,000 greater.

The increase in imports applies to most countries, but particularly to the United States and the United Kingdom, being \$186,295,414, in the case of the former, and \$116,315,051 in the latter. There has been an increase of approximately \$6,000,000 in shipments from portions of the Empire, outside of the United Kingdom. Imports from Australia, British Guiana, British South Africa and New Zealand show a decline; while those from the British East Indies have increased 40 per cent., those from the British West Indies having nearly doubled. Imports also from Brazil have doubled. That Belgium is rapidly getting on her feet may be seen in the circumstance that whereas she sent Canada \$11,429 worth of goods during the year ending July 1919, she sent \$2,519,751 in the next twelve months. Exports from France have quadrupled in value. Cuba, however, for outstrips all others in gain having gone from \$4,349,865 to \$30,523,709.

Respecting exports, the United States during the period under consideration, was Canada's best market to the extent of \$90,000,000 in shipments of Canadian goods alone, to which should be added on another approximately \$31,000,000 representing the excess of foreign, or re-exports to the United States over those to the United Kingdom. Including the total figures are United States approximately \$537,000,000, United Kingdom \$416,000,000. Exports to portions of the British Empire generally declined to the extent of \$135,046,000 during the year, due chiefly to the falling off in the trade with the United Kingdom amounting to \$146,000,000. Exports to Newfoundland increased by 50 per cent., while those to Belgium, China, Greece, the Netherlands and Roumania have advanced notably.

Difficulties of the Trade. (Continued from page 14).

tings market was the fact that there were slim offerings available at current prices due to the curtailed production at white wear manufacturers. Paper mills continued to inquire for stock, though for rather small quantities.

Roofing rags, bagging and thirds and blues continued weak, with little demand from consumers.

Hard and soft shavings showed a slight advance under continued inquiries from mills. Newspapers are in good demand and the price, while not advanced, will no doubt increase shortly, following high prices now prevailing in New York for this grade. Mixed papers continue firm with numerous enquiries from mills not usually users of this grade. The scarcity of ground wood pulp has forced some mills to turn to mixed papers to replace pulp. There is no doubt that the next few weeks will see a sharp advance in this grade, in fact unless there is a marked increase in the production of both chemical pulp and ground wood, all grades of waste paper will reach new high price levels.

St. Maurice Paper Company Limited

Head Office
522-524 Board of Trade Building
Montreal

MANUFACTURERS OF
NEWS PRINT, SULPHITE,
KRAFT, GROUNDWOOD
also Sawn & Dressed Lumber

Paper Mills, Cape Madeleine, Que.
Lumber Mills, Charlemagne, Montcalm,
St. Gabriel de Brandon,
Three Rivers.

The Spanish River Pulp and Paper Mills, Limited

Sault Ste. Marie - - Ontario

Daily Capacity.

600 tons newsprint
480 tons groundwood
220 tons sulphite
35 tons board.

MILLS AT—
Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario.
Espanola, Ontario.
Sturgeon Falls, Ontario.

Cable Address
Price

Codes Used
A B C and Liebers

Price Brothers & Company, LIMITED

MANUFACTURERS OF

Spruce Lumber, Lath, Cedar Shingles, Ties,

Pulpwood, Sulphite and Groundwood

Pulp, Newspaper, Cardboard, &c.

QUEBEC

SAW MILLS:

Batiscan

Montmagny

Cape St. Ignace

Rimouski

Matane

Salmon Lake

Saguenay District

PAPER AND PULP MILLS:

Kenogami

Jonquiere

Rimouski