

## SEPTEMBER TRADE DEFICIT \$ 29,000,000

**IMPORTS FROM U.S. RISE:** Canada's total commodity imports in September were up in value over August and September last year, although still substantially below this year's May-July levels, according to preliminary summary figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Total commodity exports - on which final figures were released on October 29 - were down slightly in value from August and narrowly higher than a year earlier. The net result was an import surplus, for the eighth time this year, substantially above the slight deficit of August and the small deficit a year ago, but less than the deficits from February to May this year.

### PURCHASES FROM U. S.

Imports in September are estimated at \$372,800,000 as compared to \$347,100,000 in August and \$349,100,000 in September, 1952. Most of the increase over last year was in purchases from the United States, but there were small increases from other foreign countries as a whole and from the United Kingdom. Imports from other Commonwealth countries were lower.

Total exports - domestic and foreign - in the month amounted to \$343,800,000 as against \$346,800,000 the previous month and \$342,300,000 in September last year. On the basis of the estimate for imports, September trade therefore yielded an import surplus of \$29,000,000 as compared to \$200,000 in August, a deficit of \$6,800,000 twelve months ago, and deficits ranging from \$30,400,000 to \$87,000,000 in this year's February-May period.

For the nine months ended September, imports reached an estimated aggregate value of \$3,340,000,000 up from \$2,945,500,000 for the corresponding 1952 period. Total commodity exports in the same period were down moderately in value to \$3,108,700,000 from \$3,190,900,000. The result was a cumulative import surplus this year of \$231,300,000 in contrast with an export surplus last year of \$245,400,000.

\* \* \*

**DEPUTY MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS:** The Minister of Public Works, Mr. Winters, has announced that Major General H.A. Young retired on November 16 as Deputy Minister of Resources and Development and became Deputy Minister of Public Works succeeding Mr. Emmett P. Murphy who retires as of November 15.

\* \* \*

Canadian department stores rang up \$676,557,000 in sales in the first three quarters of 1953, a 4.4% gain over last year's \$647,897,000.

Purchases from the United States in September increased to an estimated \$274,200,000 from \$255,100,000 a year earlier, while total sales to the United States rose somewhat less to \$211,400,000 from \$196,600,000. The import deficit with the United States thus increased to \$62,800,000 in the month against \$58,500,000 last year. In the January-September period imports aggregated \$2,477,900,000 this year as compared to \$2,172,300,000 last year, and total commodity exports were up to \$1,833,600,000 as compared to \$1,700,300,000, the debit balance for the period rising to \$644,300,000 as against \$472,000,000.

### IMPORTS FROM U. K.

Commodity imports from the United Kingdom in September were estimated at \$34,300,000, down moderately from the preceding five months but up from \$31,500,000 in September last year, the cumulative total rising to \$339,400,000 as against \$259,400,000 for the first nine months of 1952. Total exports to the United Kingdom were down slightly in September to \$44,100,000 from \$45,100,000 last year, in the nine months fell to \$509,300,000 from \$590,400,000. The credit balance with the United Kingdom for the month at \$10,800,000 compared with \$12,600,000 a year ago, the nine-month balance being down to \$169,900,000 from \$331,000,000 last year.

Imports from other Commonwealth countries were down to an estimated \$17,100,000 in September as compared to \$19,500,000 in September last year, and in the nine months to \$126,600,000 from \$142,400,000, while exports were up in the month to \$25,000,000 from \$17,800,000 but down for the cumulative period to \$186,900,000 from \$210,400,000. Purchases from foreign countries other than the United States increased to \$47,200,000 in September from \$43,000,000 last year, and showed a comparable rise for the January-September period to \$371,400,000. Total exports to these countries declined to \$62,300,000 from \$83,700,000 for the month and to \$578,900,000 from \$689,800,000 for the nine months.

**LUMBER RECORD:** Production of sawn lumber in Canada in 1951 reached the unprecedented total of 6,948,697,000 feet board measure valued at \$507,650,000, according to the Bureau's annual industry report. This compares with the previous peak set in 1950 of 6,553,898,000 board feet valued at \$422,481,000.

\* \* \*

Canada's airlines carried 980,742 paying passengers in the first half of 1953, 110,470 or 13% more than in the first six months of last year.