

### Canadian trade figures

Following an advance of 14.5 per cent in March, Canadian exports declined over 5 per cent in April to \$3,777 million, seasonally adjusted on a balance-of-payments basis. Imports, in contrast, extended the increases of the previous two months, rising 4 per cent to \$3,628 million. In falling from the unusually-high level of \$502 million in March, the merchandise trade surplus stood at \$149 million in April, a more normal balance for the recent period.

In a three-month comparison, exports increased 15 per cent to \$11,250 million in the February-April 1977 period, while imports rose 9.5 per cent to \$10,485 million. The merchandise trade surplus improved impressively to \$765 million from \$221 million in the months of November-January.

### Exports

Following an increase of over 7 per cent in March, seasonally-adjusted exports to the United States rose marginally in April to \$2,573 million. Shipments of metallic concentrates, petroleum and natural gas were higher, but exports of automotive goods and forestry products declined from the high levels of the preceding month.

Overseas shipments fell 13.5 per cent to \$1,189 million from the unusually-large total for March. Exports decreased to all principal destinations, except Japan. Reductions in shipments were widespread, but with a concentra-

tion in metallic ores and non-ferrous metals. Newsprint exports increased in April.

In a three-month comparison, seasonally-adjusted exports to the U.S. advanced 10.8 per cent to \$7,520 million in the February-April period. Motor vehicles and parts accounted for about half of the gain. Increases were also recorded in shipments of natural gas, lumber, pulp, liquefied gases, non-ferrous metals and machinery. Deliveries of crude oil fell, as did also shipments of metallic concentrates and newsprint.

After a rise of 23.5 per cent over the last three months, Canadian exports to overseas destinations stood at \$3,663 million in the February-April period. As shipments declined to the European Economic Community, the increases were concentrated in Japan and, in particular, in the remaining countries. Led by a substantial rise in wheat shipments, increases encompassed many commodities including metallic concentrates, asbestos, pulp, newsprint, and other industrial materials. Exports of lumber and automotive goods declined.

### Imports

After two months of near stability, seasonally-adjusted imports from the U.S. rose 6.5 per cent to \$2,589 million in April, exceeding the \$2.5-billion level for the first time. Imports of coal, automotive parts, and transportation equipment (other than motor vehicles) were higher.

Imports from other countries declined 3.5 per cent to \$1,085 million, with all overseas areas contributing, except Japan. Lower imports were recorded for machinery, transportation equipment, communication and office equipment and apparel. Landings of crude oil increased in April.

At \$7,440 million, imports from the U.S. in the latest three-month period were 9.9 percent above those for the November-January period. The contribution of motor vehicles and parts to the increase was important. Imports of other equipment and tools rose in the February-April period, as did also those of industrial materials and machinery.

Imports from overseas areas likewise recorded a 10 percent increase to \$3,196 million in February-April 1977. Rises in imports included commodity groups such as meat, crude oil, industrial materials and machinery, motor vehicle parts and office equipment. Imports of raw sugar declined.

### Royal visitors from Belgium

The King of the Belgians and Queen Fabiola will pay a state visit to Canada from September 19 to 23, Government House announced recently. The visit reciprocates former Governor-General Roland Michener's state visit to Belgium in 1971.

During their stay in Ottawa, the royal couple will be the guests of the Governor General and Mrs. Léger.

### Saskatchewan soccer history

*The Saskatchewan Soccer Association is trying to compile a history of the game in the province. They are looking for old photographs, press clippings, minutes of meetings, trophies, in fact anything that will reflect on the growth of the game in past years. Anyone having Saskatchewan memorabilia is asked to send it to Henk Ruys, Secretary, Saskatchewan Soccer Association, 506-8th Street East, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. (Right) Indian School Team, North Battleford, Sask. (1904) Alex Decoteau (third from left, back row) became an outstanding middle- and long-distance runner before being killed in the First World War.*

