

and in the 11 months to \$77,172,000 from \$63,297,000, while the month's exports to India and Pakistan combined increased to \$6,102,000 from \$2,871,000, but fell to \$28,814,000 from \$40,454,000 in the cumulative period.

Exports to European countries as a group declined in the month to \$17,682,000 from \$26,588,000, and in the 11 months to \$278,228,000 from \$313,086,000. Shipments to Australia rose in November to \$4,453,000 from \$3,942,000, but were down sharply in the cumulative period -- from \$53,854,000 to \$31,025,000. Exports to Newfoundland in November fell from \$6,551,000 to \$4,816,000, but were slightly higher in the 11-month period.

Gains were recorded by six of the nine main commodity groups of exports in November, while in the cumulative period five groups showed increases and four declines. Four groups -- animals and animal products; wood, wood products and paper; non-ferrous metals and products; and non-metallic minerals and products -- showed increases in both periods.

In the month, most outstanding increases were registered by agricultural and vegetable products, animals and animal products, and non-ferrous metals.

**PEAK MINERAL PRODUCTION:** Total mineral production of Canada reached an all-time high value in 1948, with values of main classes of minerals also at record levels. According to the preliminary estimate of the Bureau of Statistics, the year's output amounted in value to \$806,200,000, up 25 per cent above the previous record of \$644,700,000 in 1947. Most of the gain was due to increased prices, but quantities were also generally larger.

The output value of metallics increased 22.4 per cent from \$395,000,000 in 1947 to \$484,000,000. Fuels advanced nearly 44 per cent from \$110,500,000 to \$159,000,000. Other non-metallics gained 19 per cent from \$54,520,000 to \$64,900,000; and structural materials moved up almost 17 per cent from \$84,600,000 to \$98,800,000.

Production of gold at 3.5 million ounces was about a half million ounces greater than in 1947, but still nearly two million ounces less than the record of 5.3 million ounces in 1941. The value, at \$122,339,000, was 14 per cent above the 1947 figure. Silver production amounted to 15.6 million fine ounces valued at \$11,732,000 as compared with 12.5 million fine ounces valued at \$9,003,000 in 1947.

There were substantial increases in the production of copper, lead, zinc, nickel and other base metals. Copper output rose from 451.7 million pounds valued at \$91,542,000 to 479.8 million pounds valued at \$107,100,600. Lead from 323.3 million pounds at \$44,200,000 to 336.6 million pounds valued at \$60,700,000, zinc from 415.7 million pounds valued at \$46,700,000 to 464.2 million pounds valued at \$64,700,000, and nickel from 237.3 million

pounds valued at \$70,700,000 compared with 257.7 million valued at \$85,600,000.

Coal production at 18.4 million tons was a half million tons below the record reached in 1942, but the value of \$107,299,000 was 70.6 per cent greater than in that year. Striking developments in the Leduc oil field in Alberta were responsible for bringing the output of crude petroleum in Canada to a new high of 12 million barrels valued at \$36.8 million. Natural gas, being associated with crude petroleum, increased in output to 56.6 billion cubic feet worth \$14.6 million.

Asbestos production at 707,800 tons worth \$41,300,000 was up seven per cent in quantity and 25 per cent in value from 1947. The gypsum industry again broke its previous high by producing 3,219,000 tons valued at \$5,600,000. Salt production increased to 740,000 tons but the value was slightly lower than in 1947 due to a greater proportion of low-price brine being used by the chemical industry. Sulphur produced in the form of pyrite and sulphuric acid was only slightly less than in the preceding year.

Increased demands by the construction industry resulted in a record output of structural materials. Cement shipments amounted to 14.1 million barrels worth \$27,900,000 as compared with 11.9 million barrels valued at \$22,000,000. Clay products, which includes brick, tile, etc., made from Canadian clay were valued at \$17,300,000. Over a million tons of lime was discharged from the lime kilns in 1947. Stone quarried was in excess of 11 million tons worth \$17,000,000. Each of the industries in the structural materials group reached a new high in value of production.

**MOTOR VEHICLES SALES:** Sales of new motor vehicles reached a monthly 1948 peak in November when 21,784 units were retailed for a total of \$41,986,000 as compared with 20,690 units sold for \$40,531,000 in the corresponding month of 1947, according to the Bureau of Statistics.

Cumulative sales for the first 11 months of 1948 were down from a year earlier, totalling 196,098 units sold for \$379,959,000 as compared with 212,607 units sold for \$383,003,000 in the similar period of 1947.

Sales of passenger cars declined to 15,102 units in November from 15,422 in the same month of 1947, while trucks and buses sold advanced to 6,682 from 5,268.

**APPRENTICESHIP AGREEMENT:** The Minister of Labour, Mr. Mitchell, announced January 3 that authority had been granted for amendments to the Dominion-Provincial Agreements covering the full-time class training of prospective

apprentices under the Vocational Training Co-ordination Act, 1942, by Order-in-Council P.C. 5517 of December 21, 1948.

The effect of the amendments will be to allow a person to take class training prior to commencing his apprenticeship instead of being allowed only a maximum of three months in class during each year. The new agreement, if signed by the provinces, will still allow class training during apprenticeship, but will not permit more than three months' training for each year of apprenticeship.

Mr. Mitchell explained that the apprenticeship agreements provide for the federal Government sharing equally with the province in the approved costs of full-time class training for apprentices.

With the completion of veterans' rehabilitation training, it was of primary importance that the intake of civilian apprentices be increased, particularly for the building and construction industry.

It was considered that such increase could be effected and the efficiency of the training of apprentices improved by adopting a plan of pre-employment training similar to that followed in the case of veterans with class training lasting for about six months.

Where a province so desires, full-time class training may be given on a pre-employment basis prior to the actual indenture of an apprentice, but the number in each trade to be admitted to such classes shall be determined by the Provincial Apprenticeship Authority in consultation with the appropriate Trade Advisory Committee.

The normal period of such pre-employment training would be about six months, but its actual duration shall be determined by each province. On its completion, trainees will be trade-tested and given time-credit on the period of apprenticeship in accordance with the degree of trade competency attained, provided such credit would at least equal the length of the training period in class.

**TRADE WITH WEST INDIES:** A number of restrictions upon imports into the British West Indies, which have been the subject of representations by Canadian exporting firms, are to be relaxed from the beginning of January, according to a message received from the United Kingdom and made known in Ottawa on January 3 by the Minister of Trade and Commerce, Mr. Howe.

Following discussions with Sir Stafford Cripps, in Ottawa, the Canadian point of view was placed before United Kingdom officials, in London. As a result of these negotiations, it has been agreed that the West Indian Colonies will now permit limited importation of a number of products hitherto prohibited, or severely restricted on account of the dollar

shortage. Several hundred Canadian firms will be able, as a result, to resume trade in a market from which many of them have for several months been excluded.

In announcing these arrangements, Mr. Howe explained that the scheme now adopted is more flexible than the token import plan which has been in effect for nearly three years in the United Kingdom. Such a plan would not have been suited to the West Indies where there are many separate areas, each with its own independent import controls and its different local needs for imported products. It would be neither desirable nor practicable to impose upon each of the islands a uniform pattern of imports, or to base import licenses today upon the business done by individual suppliers in a prewar period, since when there have been great changes in the character of trade.

**ADDITIONAL DOLLARS**

The new arrangements, therefore, provide that additional dollars are to be put at the disposal of each of the West Indian colonies for increased purchases of a wide range of goods whose importation from Canada has been hitherto prohibited or severely restricted. Exporters will now be able to contact their agents and customers with a view to selling the goods in question with the expectation that some import licenses will now be forthcoming. The market will, however, be strictly competitive. No specific quotas have been set up for individual products or individual firms. Each importer will be free to purchase the goods of his choice from his preferred supplier up to the limit of additional dollars to be made available. If the additional orders placed under the scheme are in excess of a colony's capacity to pay, the local import control authorities will spread the available dollars as best they can among the various importers and products.

The benefits of the new scheme will not be restricted to Canada, but under existing agreements to which the United Kingdom is a party, are extended to other hard currency areas including the United States, it being understood that the choice of sources of supply in each case rests with the individual purchaser.

Included in the scheme are Bahamas, Barbados, Bermuda, British Guiana and British Honduras, Jamaica, Leeward and Windward Islands, and Trinidad.

"These arrangements, which are the result of friendly discussions with the U.K. authorities, will be very welcome in Canada", Mr. Howe stated. "They will help in some measure to maintain Canadian contact over a wide list of items with one of our oldest and most valued export markets. They are a tangible indication of the desire of the U.K. authorities to mitigate, so far as the dollars available to them permit, the effect of import restrictions on the traditional trade between Canada and the British West Indies."