

## REDUCED IMPORT BALANCE

Canada's commodity imports rose slightly more than 4 per cent in October, as compared with the corresponding month last year, reaching the highest level since May 1957, according to preliminary figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Total exports for October, however, rose 12 per cent in the same comparison, with the result that the import balance on the month's total foreign trade was considerably lower than a year ago.

Imports from all countries in October had an estimated value of \$499,200,000 as compared to \$479,600,000 in October last year. Total exports for October amounted to \$455,300,000 against \$405,700,000 a year earlier. There was thus an import surplus of \$43,900,000 in the month as against \$73,900,000 last year.

For the ten months ending October, the aggregate value of imports this year was \$4,313,400,000, down 9.8 per cent from \$4,780,200,000 last year. Total exports for the same period were valued at \$4,071,800,000, moderately above last year's \$4,046,900,000. The result was a sharply reduced import balance of \$241,600,000 for the 10-month period as compared to \$733,300,000 in 1957.

Imports from the United States in October rose to \$334,400,000 from \$325,500,000 in the corresponding month last year, the first increase since early last year, but January-October purchases from that country were down to \$2,990,800,000 from \$3,422,100,000. Exports to the United States in October rose to \$273,300,000 from \$259,500,000, but 10-month shipments fell to \$2,401,900,000 from \$2,439,300,000. The import balance with the United States eased to \$61,100,000 in October from \$66,000,000, and the 10-month total dropped sharply to \$588,900,000 from \$982,800,000.

Purchases from the United Kingdom rose in October to \$49,300,000 from \$44,300,000, but the 10-month total was virtually unchanged at \$437,700,000 versus \$436,000,000. Total exports to the United Kingdom were substantially higher in October at \$77,000,000 versus \$55,800,000 in the corresponding month last year, and the January-October value rose to \$640,100,000 from \$604,100,000. The export balance with the United Kingdom thus rose in October to \$27,700,000 from \$11,500,000 a year earlier, and for the 10 months to \$202,400,000 from \$168,100,000.

Imports from other Commonwealth countries declined to \$23,300,000 in October from \$26,000,000 a year earlier and to \$175,100,000 in the 10 months from \$203,600,000. Total exports to these countries were slightly higher in the month at \$19,800,000 versus \$19,600,000, but 10-month shipments were substantially higher at \$237,000,000 versus \$187,700,000.

Purchases from all foreign countries other than the United States rose in October to \$92,200,000 from \$83,800,000, but 10-month imports fell to \$709,800,000 from \$718,500,000.

000. Sales to these countries rose in October to \$85,200,000 from \$70,800,000 but in the January-October period the total fell to \$792,800,000 from \$815,800,000.

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## NEW BRIDGE AND HIGHWAY

Alberta's most modern highway, a 68-mile section of four lane divided road between Airdrie and Red Deer, was declared officially open at a ceremony on the crest of Antler Hill, on October 31. Premier E.C. Manning performed the ribbon-cutting for the first highway of this design and calibre in Western Canada. The new type road has a gently sloping median strip which is 24 feet wide, permanently grassed and flanked by fully paved four-foot shoulders. One short section has a 16-foot wide depression and three-foot inner shoulders. Double traffic lanes are 12 feet wide each, outer shoulders are 10 feet. The road is designed for road limits of 18,000 pounds per axle, 72,000 pounds gross. No grade is steeper than 5.7 per cent, no curve is sharper than 1.5 degrees in 100 feet (3,820 foot radius). Minimum sight distance at any point is 900 feet. Mayors from towns of central Alberta, representatives of Chambers of Commerce, officials of the Alberta Motor Association and of the Alberta Motor Transport Association, and several hundred private citizens gathered to mark the occasion. A military band from RCAF Station Penhold was in attendance.

The tremendous improvement and expansion of Alberta's highway system was signalled in November with the official opening of the new million dollar bridge over the North Saskatchewan at Drayton Valley. The steel and concrete, five piered structure is an integral part of the road network south and west of Edmonton. It was two years in construction.

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## VEGETABLE OILS INDUSTRY

The value of factory shipments from 11 plants engaged in the extraction of vegetable oils in 1957 was at a record \$60,952,000, up sharply (44 per cent) from 1956's total of \$42,239,000, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics' annual report of the industry. The previous peak total was 1951's \$60,202,000. Employees eased to 656 from 672 in 1956, but salaries and wages climbed to \$2,663,000 from \$2,584,000; material costs to \$50,899,000 from \$37,108,000 and value added by manufacture to \$8,925,000 from \$5,444,000.

Factory shipments of major products in 1957 included the following: soya bean oilcake, \$20,471,000 (\$12,334,000 in 1956); raw soya bean oil, \$19,626,000 (\$10,685,000); raw linseed oil, \$5,772,000 (\$4,859,000); linseed oilcake, \$4,076,000 (\$4,386,000); and special linseed oil, \$3,882,000 (\$4,293,000).