

(C.W.B. October 22, 1948)

required to implement the program upon which agreement has been reached.

It is understood that in view of seasonal fluctuations, the existence of certain contracts already on the books and the desire of both countries to avoid any unnecessary development of controls, the import levels will be subject to reasonable margins of tolerance.

Steel needed for any special projects that may be agreed upon between the two governments will be added to the quantities indicated above.

Appropriate adjustments will be made for Newfoundland requirements when they have to be met out of Canada's total program.

In cases where steel is sent to Canada for processing and is then reshipped to the United States as semi-finished or finished steel corresponding deductions will be made from the recorded data of Canadian imports.

#### ON BOARD H.M.C.S. "ONTARIO", OCTOBER 16:

Warmer skies mark the midpoint as the Canadian task force steams its great circle course to the Hawaiian Islands and white tropical uniforms are now the dress of the day.

Today the cruiser "Ontario", the destroyers "Cayuga", "Athabaskan" and "Crescent" and the frigate "Antigonish" will have covered 1,500 of the 2,360 miles to Pearl Harbour. On board this 9,000-ton cruiser 97 young Canadians of the 600 crew members are settling down to their first cruise on board a warship. They came straight to the ship after completing their new entry training in H.M.C.S. "Naden".

Since departing from the Esquimalt base, the ships have carried out constant daily exercises and an exercise each night. Friday "Ontario" conducted tactical manoeuvres with the destroyer division and internal organization drills were carried on throughout the ship. The cruiser also refuelled "Cayuga", "Athabaskan" and "Crescent" while under way.

POTATO EXPORTS: Canada exported fresh fruit and vegetables to the value of \$54,000,000 to the United States during the last five years, whereas her imports from that country were valued at \$290,000,000 in the same period. This information was made known by the Right Hon. C.D. Howe, Minister of Trade and Commerce, in commenting on statements in the United States to the effect that the potato markets in that country were being flooded with the Canadian product.

It was pointed out by the Minister that the movement of Canadian potatoes to the United States at this time of year was normal, and that the amount of table stock potatoes entering the United States under the low tariff rate was limited to one million bushels. The bulk of Canadian potato exports to the United States consists of certified seed potatoes, which are in demand by United States growers because of their high quality standards and

freedom from disease.

Although Canadian potatoes entering the United States are subject to a tariff of from 37½ to 75 cents per hundredweight, United States potatoes may enter Canada duty free except during a six-week period -- June 15 to July 31, when imports are subject to a duty of 37½ cents per hundredweight.

TRADE BALANCE WITH U.S.: Canada's adverse trade balance with the United States showed a further decline in August, dropping to \$20,300,000 as compared with \$28,600,000 in July and \$71,600,000 in August last year, according to the import and total trade figures for the month released by the Bureau of Statistics. The month's deficit was the smallest since December, 1945. For the eight months ending August, the deficit in trade with the United States totalled \$277,100,000, down sharply from \$644,500,000 for the like 1947 period.

The reduced adverse balance in August was the combined result of a further decline in imports and the expansion of exports to the United States over last year. Imports fell off to \$136,100,000 compared with \$155,300,000 in August last year, while exports as reported earlier rose to \$114,000,000 as against \$81,400,000. Imports aggregated \$1,170,000,000 in the eight months ending August this year compared with \$1,305,200,000 last year, while exports totalled \$878,900,000 against \$645,500,000.

Imports from the United Kingdom in August maintained the gains of previous months over 1947, amounting to \$24,700,000 compared with \$15,100,000 in August last year, and bringing the total for the year to \$193,200,000 compared with \$117,400,000. The increase in imports, combined with the reduction in value of August exports to \$52,500,000 compared with \$66,000,000 in August, 1947, lowered the favourable visible trade balance with the United Kingdom to \$27,900,000 as against \$51,100,000 a year ago. For the eight months this year the credit balance amounted to \$276,000,000 -- almost equivalent to the deficit with the United States -- as compared with \$372,100,000 last year.

Merchandise imports from all countries totalled \$206,500,000 in August, up slightly over last year's August total of \$204,600,000. Domestic exports during the month amounted to \$224,100,000 compared with \$221,300,000. With foreign exports included, total trade for the month stood at \$433,000,000 as against \$429,400,000 in 1947. For the eight months, total trade rose moderately to \$3,600,500,000 compared with \$3,497,800,000, while the overall balance of trade increased to \$197,200,000 as against \$121,600,000 last year.

Merchandise imports from Latin America in August continued the trend of preceding months, rising to \$20,375,000 as compared with \$14,641,000 a year earlier. Purchases from Venezuela were sharply higher at \$9,068,000 com-

pared with \$4,777,000, with smaller gains in imports from Brazil, Colombia, Mexico and San Domingo more than offsetting decreases in purchases from Argentina, Cuba and Guatemala.

Among British Countries, imports from Newfoundland were valued at \$1,596,000 compared with \$1,820,000, Jamaica \$1,022,000 compared with \$926,000, Trinidad and Tobago \$1,159,000 (\$317,000), British Guiana \$1,102,000 (\$793,000), Gold Coast \$1,030,000 (\$86,000), Nigeria \$1,152,000 (\$243,000), British East Africa \$1,100,000, (\$426,000), India and Pakistan \$1,844,000 (\$3,106,000), British Malaya \$2,424,000 (\$1,188,000), Australia \$3,136,000 (\$763,000), and New Zealand \$240,000 (\$2,385,000).

Imports from Europe increased slightly in August to \$4,660,000 compared with \$4,117,000, purchases from France rising to \$1,082,000 compared with \$431,000, and from Belgium declining to \$638,000 as against \$1,002,000.

WHEAT MARKETINGS: Stocks of Canadian wheat in store or in transit in North America at midnight on October 7 amounted to 169,472,000 bushels, up 8,625,000 bushels from the September 30 total and 39,584,000 bushels in advance of last year's corresponding visible, according to figures released by the Bureau of Statistics.

Visible stocks in the western division were up sharply from a year ago, totalling 152,930,000 bushels compared with 108,289,000. Stocks at eastern lake ports fell from 16,829,000 bushels a year ago to 8,308,000, but at eastern seaboard ports the stocks rose from 917,000 bushels to 2,840,000, in lake transit from 3,611,000 bushels to 4,301,000, and in rail transit in the eastern division from 241,000 to 472,000 bushels.

Deliveries of wheat from farms in the Prairie Provinces during the week ending October 7 amounted to 14,008,086 bushels compared with 17,847,118 in the preceding week. Marketings of oats totalled 3,723,158 bushels compared with 3,828,914 a week earlier; barley, 3,256,399 bushels compared with 3,720,697; rye, 349,603 bushels compared with 440,604; and flaxseed, 2,117,162 bushels compared with 1,835,630.

Overseas export clearances of wheat during the week ending October 7 amounted to 2,123,293 bushels compared with 2,030,057 a year ago.

MAN-HOURS, HOURLY EARNINGS: Average weekly wages of hourly-rated personnel employed by leading manufacturers at August 1 amounted to \$39.07, the highest in the record of 46 months, according to figures released by the Bureau of Statistics. This was 30 cents higher than the July 1 average figure of \$38.77, and \$4.52 in advance of the August 1, 1947 average of \$34.55. This year's August 1 average showed an increase of 13.1 per cent as compared with last year, and 29.8 per cent in the two-year comparison.

The wage-earners for whom man-hours are reported by leading manufacturers worked an average of 42.1 hours in the week of August 1 compared with 42 hours at July 1 and 42.5 a year earlier. The aggregate hours worked by the hourly-rated wage earners in the week of August 1 decreased 0.8 per cent, when the number of wage-earners for whom data were reported declined by 0.1 per cent as compared with a month earlier. Industrial disputes in the automotive parts industry and the seasonal slackening of operations in the textile and certain other industries were largely responsible for this decrease.

The average hourly earnings of the wage-earners for whom statistics were available at August 1 stood at 92.8 cents. This was the peak figure in the record of 46 months. The July 1 average, previously the maximum, was 92.3 cents, and at August 1 last year, 81.3 cents. This year's August 1 figure showed an increase of 14.1 per cent as compared with a year earlier, and 32.6 per cent in the 24 months' comparison.

LABOUR INCOME: Canadian labour income in July is estimated at \$596,000,000, increasing \$11,000,000 over the June figure and \$64,000,000 over that of July last year, according to the Bureau of Statistics. Aggregate for the first seven months of this year stands at \$3,887,000,000 compared with \$3,405,000,000 in the like period of 1947.

The increased total in July reflected greater aggregates of earnings in construction, transportation and agriculture. Although average weekly earnings in construction were slightly lower, large increases in the number of workers employed on highway construction and, to a lesser extent, on building construction raised the total of wages and salaries \$7,000,000. Agricultural employment was seasonally higher and average income of farm labour rose from \$83.26 per month, including board, at May 15 to a corresponding \$86.79 at August 15.

In transportation, there was also an increase in employment due to seasonal influences. Larger totals of salaries and wages in this industry for July do not reflect the 17 cents per hour increase granted to employees of steam railways. Payments of increased rates on a current basis were put into effect on August 1, and no cheques covering the retroactive pay were distributed until September. There was virtually no change in labour income payments in other industries.

RESIDENTIAL RENTS: Excluding farm dwellings, the average rent for all types of dwelling units in Canada was \$27.43 in February last, it is estimated by the Bureau of Statistics on the basis of data collected from a large sample of households in the course of its regular quarterly labour force survey.