

DOMESTIC EXPORTS

Canada's domestic commodity exports were valued at \$701,036,000 in September of last year, a decrease of 3.2 per cent from the September 1964 total of \$724,022,000. This placed the value in the January to September period at \$6,058,278,000, a slight (0.9 per cent) rise from the comparable total of \$6,003,946,000 a year earlier. The decline in the month was due primarily to a drop in volume as that index (1948=100) fell 4.5 per cent to 206.4 from 216.1 a year earlier, while the price rose 1.4 per cent to 133.8 from 132.0.

CHIEF RECIPIENTS

Among the principal destinations, exports were higher in value in September and January to September

compared to the value a year earlier for shipments to the United States, the Netherlands, Norway and the Republic of South Africa, while values were lower in both periods for Britain, Japan, Federal Republic of Germany, and Communist China. Values were down in the month and up in the cumulative period for shipments to Australia and Belgium and Luxembourg.

Exports of newprint, wood pulp, and crude petroleum were greater than those for a year earlier both in September and January to September, while those of wheat, softwood lumber, and aircraft and parts were smaller in both periods. Shipments of iron ores and concentrates, aluminum and alloys, nickel and alloys, and copper and alloys were down in the month and up in the nine months.

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The Canada Assistance Plan was first brought before Parliament in the speech from the Throne last April. It is one of the group of measures presented at that time as part of the concerted effort to increase opportunity and reduce poverty. The Plan represents federal recognition that public assistance and positive welfare services have an important and positive role to play in attacking poverty and the effects of poverty on the economic and social well-being of Canadians. Seen in this context, public assistance taken on a new and more constructive role - that is, it is designed not only to relieve need, but also to provide the services and support required to enable the individual to attain or regain the fullest measure of self-support and independence of which he is capable.

The main features of the Plan, designed to achieve this objective, are a comprehensive approach, mothers' allowances, assistance on the basis of need, medical, administration and welfare services, supplementation of income, Indian welfare and work-activity projects. Mr. MacEachren emphasized that, though the Federal Government would contribute, through the Canada Assistance Plan, to the costs of assistance and

Dr. Schuler said it is not claimed that this device has any virtue other than the simplicity of operation and very low cost which will make the benefits of fetal electrocardiography more widely available. The preamplifier, which is about the size of a doughnut, can be manufactured and sold for about \$200 to \$300. It was designed for the first time by Canadian Parents and Development Limited, a subsidiary of NRC at the Canadian Electronics Conference in Toronto recently. The new machine will be useful in determining whether an unborn child is alive or dead. It will help doctors to determine how a baby is getting along and whether it is in trouble due to labour, knotting of the umbilical cord or because the mother is hemorrhaging. In addition, the machine will be useful in indicating the position in which a baby is lying in the uterus, monitoring the baby's heart beat during labour, determining the best time for performing a Caesarean section or inducing labour in incompatibility conditions and in leading an infant's heart condition by temporarily lowering the mother's supply of oxygen.

SIMPLE AND INEXPENSIVE

In 1964 the Instrument Section of NRC's Radio and Electrical Engineering Division developed a special electrocardiograph for recording the heart-beats of unborn children. However, this machine is expensive, costing about \$2,000. In an effort to encourage wider use of fetal electrocardiography, Dr. Gerhard Schuler, of the Instrument Section, has developed a simple pre-amplifier to pick up fetal heartbeats and lead them into a standard electrocardiograph. This machine produces a graph that distinguishes the fetal heartbeats from the mother's heartbeats and other

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become as popular among physicians as the stethoscope. Used in conjunction with any standard electrocardiograph, the machine enables physicians to record the fetal heartbeats of an unborn child which cannot be recorded by a standard electrocardiograph as they are masked by the mother's heartbeat. A team of doctors from the Ottawa Civic Hospital, the University Council and the Ottawa Civic Hospital has developed a simple low-cost preamplifier.

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