

SEPTEMBER IMPORTS UP: Canada's merchandise imports rose moderately in value in September as compared with a year earlier, both prices and volume being higher, according to final summary figures for the month released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. But both the value and volume of imports in September were significantly lower than in the months from April to July.

Total value of the month's commodity imports was \$367,500,000 as compared with \$349,100,000 in the corresponding month last year. Import prices averaged 3.3 per cent above those of a year ago, and the volume gain was 1.2 per cent. Total value of imports for the January-September period was \$3,334,700,000, a gain of 13 per cent over last year's \$2,945,500,000.

Total exports in September rose slightly in value to \$343,800,000 from \$342,300,000 in the same month of 1952. Thus, Canada had an import surplus in the month of \$23,600,000 in contrast to an import surplus of \$6,800,000 a year ago. The preliminary summary for the month issued on November 17, had estimated imports and the import surplus at slightly higher levels. In the nine-month period the debit balance was \$226,100,000 in contrast to an export surplus of \$245,400,000 a year ago.

Imports from the United States rose in September to \$268,018,000 from \$255,144,000,

raising the January-September total to \$2,471,696,000 from \$2,172,317,000. Purchases from the United Kingdom advanced in the month to \$34,338,000 from \$31,495,000 the previous year but were lower than in the period from March to August. In the nine-month period imports from the United Kingdom rose to \$339,406,000 from \$259,392,000 with most of the increase being in textiles and metal products. Imports from the rest of the Commonwealth declined in September to \$16,878,000 from \$19,493,000. From the Latin American group of countries purchases in September rose in value to \$25,296,000 from \$21,798,000; Europe to \$14,638,000 from \$13,108,000; but from all other countries the value declined to \$7,176,000 from \$7,504,000.

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CIVIL DEFENCE: The federal Government will contribute to the cost of an additional \$80,000 worth of civil defence projects in British Columbia, it was announced at Ottawa on December 29.

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The Minister of Trade and Commerce announced on December 29 the appointment of Mr. Walter Spence Frazer, of Winnipeg, Manitoba, as Assistant Commissioner, Board of Grain Commissioners, for the Province of Manitoba.

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