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WEEK'S EVENTS IN REVIEW

1952 EXPORTS SET RECORD: With a final boost of an all-time monthly value in December, Canada's domestic exports reached a new peak value of \$4,301,000,000 in the year 1952, nearly 10 per cent above the previous record value of \$3,914,500,000 for 1951. Re-exports of foreign goods were also at a new high value of \$54,879,000, up from \$48,924,000, bringing the total export trade to \$4,355,960 as against \$3,963,384,000 in 1951.

Domestic exports in December were valued at \$389,400,000, up moderately from the previous high monthly value of \$385,900,000 for November and, in view of lower prices, significantly above the value of \$379,300,000 for December, 1951.

The increased value of exports in 1952 was all due to gains in volume. Export prices were slightly less on average during the year than in 1951. In the first four months of the year average export prices were higher than in 1951, but thereafter they were less than in the corresponding months in the previous year. The rate of decline after April was moderate and average export prices at the end of the year were some five per cent lower than twelve months earlier.

Overseas shipments were almost wholly responsible for the increased value of 1952 domestic exports, substantial gains being recorded in the values of domestic exports to the United Kingdom, other Commonwealth coun-

tries, Latin America, Europe and other foreign countries. Total domestic exports to the United States were only slightly higher in value than in 1951, the small gain being due to a substantial rise in December over a year earlier.

Commodity-wise, trends were mixed in 1952, with gains in the totals of only five of the nine main commodity groups, the largest being for the agricultural and vegetable products and the non-ferrous metals groups, while the iron and products, non-metallic minerals and miscellaneous groups showed substantial but more moderate increases. The animals and animal products group was sharply lower, while the wood and paper group -- largest of the nine -- and the fibres and textiles and chemicals group were down slightly.

Among the major commodities, there were outstanding gains in wheat and in grains other than wheat, and substantial increases in newsprint, aluminum, nickel, copper and products, zinc, asbestos, motor vehicles, machinery other than farm, and fertilizers. Added to these were gains in many other items of generally smaller values. On the other hand, there were decreases in such leading items as planks and boards, wood pulp, pulpwood, fish and fishery products, in addition to the sharp decline in cattle and meats that followed upon the outbreak of the foot-and-mouth disease last winter.

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