

COMMODITY EXPORTS INCREASE

Reversing the trend of the three previous months, Canada's commodity exports rose more than 12 per cent in October to \$455,300,000 from last year's corresponding total of \$405,700,000, according to advance figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The month's gain of close to \$50,000,000 more than erased earlier decreases this year and January-October exports rose to \$4,071,800,000 from \$4,046,900,000 in the like 1957 period.

Exports in October were larger than last year to all main geographic areas, the most substantial increase being to the United Kingdom. Over the January-October period there were increased exports to the United Kingdom and the rest of the Commonwealth, but decreases to the United States and other foreign countries.

Exports to the United States rose to \$273,-

300,000 in October from \$259,500,000 in the same month last year but January-October exports lagged behind year-earlier shipments at \$2,401,900,000 versus \$2,439,300,000. Exports to the United Kingdom increased to \$77,000,000 in October from \$55,800,000 and ten-month exports rose to \$640,100,000 from \$604,100,000.

October's exports to the rest of the Commonwealth were slightly higher at \$19,800,000 as compared with \$19,600,000, but January-October exports were sharply higher at \$237,000,000 versus \$187,700,000. Exports to all other foreign countries rose in October to \$85,200,000 from \$70,800,000, but the year's cumulative exports fell to \$792,800,000 from \$815,800,000.

Figures for October and the ten months are shown in the following table:

	October		January-October	
	1957	1958	1957	1958
	Millions of Dollars			
<u>Exports (domestic & foreign):</u>				
United Kingdom	55.8	77.0	604.1	640.1
Other Commonwealth countries.	19.6	19.8	187.7	237.0
United States	259.5	273.3	2,439.3	2,401.9
All other countries	70.8	85.2	815.8	792.8
Totals..	405.7	455.3	4,046.9	4,071.8

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FRIENDSHIP HOUSE

Members of the Embassy staffs and students of Asian countries in Ottawa put on a colourful display of their native costumes, dances and customs in "Asian Presentation", at the Glebe Collegiate on November 18. Sponsored jointly by the Overseas Friendly Society of Ottawa and the Asian Committee of the Embassies of Ceylon, India, Indonesia, Japan and Pakistan, under the chairmanship of Lady Coomaraswamy, wife of the High Commissioner for Ceylon, the evening was a money-making project for Friendship House.

Under the Colombo Plan and various United Nations Agencies, an increasing number of students, fellows and trainees have been coming to Canada each year, with Ottawa as the main centre for arrivals and departures. The Overseas Friendly Society was organized in 1955 for the purpose of giving these visitors the opportunity of meeting not only each other, but Canadians as well.

The main project of the Society is Friendship House. Quarters made available by the Government of Canada provide adequate lounge and kitchen facilities, and a recreation hall large enough to seat 200 people. A radio with a record player, television and a library are there for those who wish to use them.

An effort is made to avoid the forcing of an organized programme on the visitors. Friday

evenings are usually devoted to dancing, bridge, and other games. On Sunday afternoons there is tea and an opportunity to meet friends. This is often an occasion to entertain a distinguished guest from abroad, or a Canadian who is leaving for or returning from a foreign assignment.

Saturday evenings are reserved for more organized entertainment. Canada is shown to visitors through films. Musical evenings, dances and parties celebrate special festivals, and once a month there is a "country night" when the visitors, with the aid of their Embassies, put on a programme illustrating the history, development, and culture of their own countries.

Entertainment and hospitality are not confined to the club rooms. Arrangements are made to have the visitors entertained in Canadian homes, to go skiing, to go on sleigh rides, to visit summer cottages, to see Canadian customs such as maple sugar making, or to visit points of interest outside Ottawa. In addition to entertainment, the Society maintains certain services such as locating accommodation for the visitors, making contacts in other cities across Canada, and generally helping them to become accustomed to Canadian ways and conditions.

Friendship House is open to nationals of all countries.