

AUGUST FOREIGN TRADE: Canada's foreign commodity trade was slightly lower in value in August than in the corresponding month last year, according to preliminary figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The decrease in the value of exports in August was at a reduced rate from the declines earlier in the year, and imports were almost the same value as in August last year in contrast to appreciable declines in earlier months. There was again an import balance in August as in most previous months this year.

Total exports in August amounted to \$328,100,000, down 5.4% from last year's \$346,900,000. Commodity imports had an estimated value of \$343,200,000, less than 1% below last year's \$345,200,000. The estimated import surplus was \$15,100,000 in contrast to an export surplus of \$1,700,000 a year earlier.

In the January-August period exports aggregated \$2,529,400,000, a decrease of 8.5% from last year's \$2,764,900,000, while imports were down 7.7% to \$2,737,900,000 from \$2,967,200,000. The cumulative import surplus rose slightly to \$208,500,000 from \$202,300,000.

EXPORTS TO U. S.

Exports to the United States in August were moderately lower at \$196,000,000 as compared with \$199,900,000, but estimated imports rose to \$248,000,000 from \$244,700,000, and the import surplus climbed to \$52,000,000 from \$44,800,000. January-August exports aggregated \$1,535,700,000, down from \$1,622,200,000, and imports were cut to \$1,994,400,000 from \$2,203,700,000, and the import surplus fell to \$458,700,000 from \$581,500,000.

Exports to the United Kingdom in August were reduced to \$58,700,000 from \$67,200,000 a year earlier, and with estimated imports down to \$31,300,000 from \$38,400,000, the export surplus was slightly smaller at \$27,400,000 as compared with \$28,800,000. January-August exports dropped to \$401,600,000 from \$464,300,000, estimated imports to \$271,100,000 from \$305,100,000, and the export surplus moved down to \$130,500,000 from \$159,200,000.

August exports to other Commonwealth countries were slightly higher at \$18,700,000 as compared with \$17,900,000, but 8-month exports were down to \$129,800,000 from \$161,800,000. Estimated imports were valued at \$17,300,000 in August, up from \$14,700,000, and the January-August total rose to \$114,200,000 from \$109,000,000.

Exports to all other foreign countries in August dropped to \$54,700,000 from \$61,900,000, and January-August shipments fell to \$462,300,000 from \$516,600,000. Estimated imports were slightly lower in August at \$46,600,000 as compared with \$47,400,000, but January-August imports were up to \$358,200,000 from \$349,400,000.

GRAIN EXPORTS HIGH: Combined exports of oats, barley, rye and flaxseed during the 1953-54 crop year amounted to 182,000,000 bushels, exceeded only by the record 1952-53 total of 196,800,000 bushels. With the exception of barley, exports of each of the four grains in 1953-54 exceeded their 1952-53 levels.

Exports of Canadian barley at 90,000,000 bushels, although considerably below the peak total of 118,900,000 bushels exported during 1952-53, were still the second highest on record and accounted for approximately one-half of the total export movement of coarse grains in 1953-54.

Exports of oats increased by some 5,000,000 bushels to a 1953-54 total of 69,900,000 bushels, while rye exports at 16,800,000 bushels were well above the previous record of 11,300,000 set in 1927-28. The 5,200,000 bushels of flaxseed exported during 1953-54 were the highest movement of this crop since 1943-44.

The United States took some 36,900,000 bushels of Canadian barley as against 24,100,000 in the preceding year and replaced Germany as the leading market for Canadian barley. Exports to Japan at 19,700,000 bushels were relatively unchanged from the 1952-53 total of 19,400,000 bushels. Purchases by the United Kingdom, amounting to 19,600,000 bushels, were some 3,600,000 greater than in 1952-53. The Federal Republic of Germany, with imports of 7,000,000 bushels dropped to fourth place among the leading markets for Canadian barley. Other major markets were: Belgium, 3,200,000 bushels; Switzerland and the Netherlands each 800,000; U.S.S.R., 700,000; and Ireland, 500,000.

The United States remained the leading market for Canadian oats, taking some 65,900,000 bushels of the total 69,900,000. Belgium, with 2,100,000 bushels and the United Kingdom with 1,500,000, accounted for most of the remainder.

Exports of rye, at 16,800,000 bushels were almost double the 1952-53 total of 9,000,000 bushels.

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NORTH WEST PASSAGE The Royal Canadian Navy's arctic patrol vessel, Labrador, has become the first warship to negotiate the famed North West passage. On September 22 latest reports from the 6,500-ton vessel, on her maiden cruise from Halifax, placed the ship in Bering Strait between Alaska and Siberia, heading south in company with U.S. icebreakers. She is expected at Esquimault, B.C. about October 1.

The RCMP's vessel St. Roch was the first to make the passage in a single season, completing the journey from Halifax to Vancouver in 86 days in 1944. The first passage was made by Amundsen in the 46-ton Gjoa, and it occupied three years, 1903 to 1906.