

Preliminary trade figures

(Continued from P. 6)

At \$1,351 million, seasonally-adjusted imports from overseas countries were also sharply higher in April, up 28.5 percent above the unusually low March level of \$1,051 million. In extension of successive quarterly increases, imports from overseas countries rose 13.5 per cent to \$3,670 million in the February-April period. Imports from the EEC and Japan together represented 56 per cent and 84 per cent, respectively, of the increases for April and for the latest three months.

Imports, without seasonal adjustment, advanced close to 13 per cent from \$13,529 million in the first four months

of 1977 to \$15,272 million in 1978. Imports of motor vehicles and parts increased over \$370 million, those of fabricated materials by \$455 million, and imports of aircraft and other equipment and tools were up some \$305 million. Industrial machinery imports rose roughly \$160 million, but imports of agricultural implements and coal were down slightly.

About 70.2 per cent of Canadian imports arrived from the U.S. in January-April 1978, as compared with 70.5 per cent and 68.4 per cent in the same periods of the preceding two years. The proportion of imports from the EEC, Japan and other American countries also expanded between 1976 and 1978, but the shares for the remaining countries contracted.

Canada had a seasonally-adjusted trade surplus of \$179 million in April, down from \$771 million in March and the smallest surplus since November 1977.

Farm cash receipts totalled \$3.66 billion from January to April, up 9.9 per cent from \$3.33 billion a year earlier, Statistics Canada reports. The total is for all provinces except Newfoundland and includes cash receipts from the sale of farm products, Canadian Wheat Board participation payments on previous years' grain crops, cash advances on farm-stored grains in Western Canada and deficiency payments made by the Agricultural Stabilization Board.

It now costs two cents to produce a 1-cent piece (a penny) and six cents to produce a 5-cent coin (a nickel) says Yvon Gariepy, Master of the Royal Canadian Mint, yet the coins are sold to chartered banks at their face value. "The cost difference adds up to \$7 million a year," he said. Despite the loss, however, the Mint made a profit of \$4 million on sales of \$62 million, last year, said Mr. Gariepy.

A chair of Ukrainian studies will be established at the University of Toronto, announced Multiculturalism Minister Norman Cafik recently, with the help of \$300,000 from the Federal Government and a similar amount raised privately by the Ukrainian Canadian Professional and Business Federation. Half a million Ukrainians in Canada are living mainly in Ontario (28 per cent); Manitoba (20 per cent); and Saskatchewan (15 per cent).

The first world conference under the new program of Chemical Research Applied to World Needs established by the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry will be held in Toronto, July 10-13. This important conference, co-sponsored by the Chemical Institute of Canada and the American Chemical Society, deals with the future sources of organic raw materials for the chemical industry. More than 50 invited papers are expected to be presented, representing research activities in 16 nations. Details are available from the Chemical Institute of Canada, 151 Slater Street, Ottawa, Ontario, K1P 5H3, Canada.

A Gallup poll reports that more Canadians are wearing their car seat belts. A year ago, 43 per cent of those questioned said they had used their belts the last time they were in a car. When the same question was asked in April, 59 per cent replied that they had.

News briefs

Consumer and Corporate Affairs Minister Warren Allmand told a meeting of the Quebec Federation of Home and School Associations recently that he was optimistic about the future of Quebec within Confederation, for the following reasons: Quebec Opposition leader Claude Ryan has stated he agrees with an entrenched charter of rights, including language rights, in the Constitution, following a discussion with Prime Minister Trudeau; the "overwhelmingly affirmative response" to Positive Action Committee advertisements calling on Quebecers to declare their intention to stay in the province; the recent Superior Court judgment declaring Bill 101 unconstitutional with respect to the languages of the court and legislature, and a similar legal campaign to change the English-only legislation in Manitoba; and the bill recently tabled in Ottawa to guarantee in

criminal proceedings the right for the accused to request a trial in either English or French.

The Royal Canadian Mint has received new contracts to manufacture circulating and numismatic coins (a total of 500 million), representing the largest group of foreign orders ever received by the Mint in a five-month period. Some of the new orders were received from Barbados, Cayman Islands, Colombia, Costa Rica, Israel, New Zealand, Nicaragua and Spain. The contracts will have a total value of \$6 million.

A 1929 Packard, which sold for \$22,750, drew the top price at what organizers described as Canada's largest-ever public auction of antique cars in Oshawa, Ontario. T.O. Auto Auction Ltd. hope to make the auction an annual event.

Legislation introduced for first reading by the Ontario government proposes fines of up to \$1,000 for professionals who neglect to report known or suspected cases of child abuse. The existing law requires every person knowing of the desertion or ill-treatment of a child to inform a Children's Aid Society or Crown attorney, but there is no penalty for failure to report. The bill also assigns the right to be heard to children (ten years old and over, except in certain cases) whose futures are decided in the courts.

Finance Minister Jean Chrétien has called a federal-provincial meeting of finance ministers for July 6 and 7 in Winnipeg. The meeting will focus on the ways Ottawa and the provinces can co-operate in economic stabilization matters.

Canada Weekly is published by the Information Services Division, Department of External Affairs, Ottawa, K1A 0G2.

Material may be freely reprinted. A credit would be appreciated. Photo sources, if not shown, will be provided on request to (Mrs.) Miki Sheldon, Editor.

Cette publication existe également en français sous le titre Hebdo Canada.

Algunos números de esta publicación aparecen también en español bajo el título Noticiero de Canadá.

Ähnliche Ausgaben dieses Informationsblatts erscheinen auch in deutscher Sprache unter dem Titel Profil Kanada.