

Twenty agreements added a fourth week of vacation or reduced the service requirements for a vacation of this length. Most frequently, the fourth week was granted after 20 to 25 years. The service requirements for a vacation of three weeks was reduced to 10 years in 19 contracts, and a vacation of two weeks after service of three years or less was the rule in contracts.

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**CEYLON MISSION:** The Department of External Affairs announces that it has agreed to the opening of the Office of a High Commissioner, for Ceylon in Canada. His Excellency Mr. R. S. S. Gunewardene, Ambassador for Ceylon in Washington, will be appointed concurrently as High Commissioner for Ceylon in Canada. The Government of Ceylon proposes to open a permanent mission in Ottawa early in May.

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**DOMESTIC EXPORTS UP:** Canada's exports were more than 10 per cent higher in value in January this year than last, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Substantially larger shipments to European countries, Latin American countries, and "other" foreign countries, coupled with smaller increases to the United States, and Commonwealth countries in America, Africa and Asia, more than offset smaller exports to the United Kingdom.

Gains were posted from a year earlier in all main commodity groups except animals and animal products and wood, wood products and paper. Chief gains were in agricultural and vegetable products, iron and products, and non-metallic minerals and products. Among individual commodities, main increases were recorded for wheat, and other grains, wood pulp, aluminum and products, seeds, crude petroleum, and rolling-mill products and ships.

January's domestic exports to all countries were valued at \$396,900,000, up 10.3 per cent from \$359,700,000 a year earlier. At the same time, foreign exports rose to \$7,201,000 from \$5,719,000. Volume of domestic exports climbed 7.7 per cent and prices averaged 2.4 per cent higher.

Exports to the United States at \$212,909,000 were about the same value as last year's like total of \$212,711,000. Larger shipments of fibres, textiles and products, iron and products, non-ferrous metals and products, non-metallic minerals and products, and of miscellaneous commodities counterbalancing smaller export values for agricultural and vegetable products, animals and animal products, wood, wood products and paper, and chemicals and allied products.

Shipments to the United Kingdom were lower in the month at \$63,420,000 compared to \$72,565,000 a year earlier, increases in agricultural and vegetable products being too small

to outweigh decreases in the other commodity groups. Large value decreases were recorded for wood, wood products and paper, and non-ferrous metals and products.

Exports to all other Commonwealth countries increased to \$21,262,000 from last year's corresponding total of \$18,223,000, larger totals being posted for Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, Pakistan and New Zealand, but decreases for India and Australia.

Geographically the largest dollar increase in domestic exports was in shipments to European countries, these rising in value to \$52,425,000 from \$31,070,000 a year earlier. Large increases in shipments to the Federal Republic of Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Belgium and Luxembourg, France, Switzerland and Ireland being mainly responsible for the gain in total value.

Shipments to Latin America rose to \$21,416,000 from 1956's January total of \$13,363,000, gains being reported to most of the countries. Greatest increases in dollar value occurred in shipments to Brazil, Cuba, Panama, Peru and Columbia. To all "other" foreign countries exports increased to \$22,865,000 from last year's \$10,573,000. Shipments to Japan, which accounted for two thirds of the January total, were substantially above last year's value.

January exports by main commodity groups were as follows (in millions): agricultural vegetable products, \$82.1 (\$64.6 a year earlier); animals and animal products, \$21.1 (\$23.5); fibres, textiles and products, \$2.3 (\$2.0); wood, wood products and paper, \$117.1 (\$121.0); iron and products, \$31.2 (\$24.9); non-ferrous metals and products, \$87.4 (\$80.9); non-metallic minerals and products, \$27.5 (\$20.2); chemicals and allied products, \$16.1 (\$14.7); and miscellaneous commodities, \$12.2 (\$7.9).

Values of leading commodities exported in January were (in thousands): newsprint paper, \$58,663 (\$58,503 a year earlier); wheat, \$33,804 (\$27,113); wood pulp, \$25,804 (\$23,212); aluminum and products, \$21,072 (\$18,880); planks and boards, \$20,146 (\$25,846); copper and products, \$19,439 (\$18,921); nickel, \$19,115 (\$18,621); seeds, \$13,799 (\$9,609); crude petroleum, \$12,468 (\$7,148); fish and fishery products, \$9,533 (\$9,403); zinc and products, \$7,080 (\$6,255); asbestos and products, \$6,429 (\$7,015); and rolling mill products, \$5,086 (3,102).

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**NEW FIRMS:** A total of 4,684 new companies were incorporated in Ontario during 1956. Provincial Secretary George H. Dunbar disclosed recently in the Legislature.

Mr. Dunbar pointed out this was the highest number of incorporations ever registered in one year in the Province's history.