

DECEMBER EXPORTS JUMP TO 18-MONTH HIGH

IMPORTS DECLINE: Canada's total exports jumped to an 18-month high value in December, while commodity imports showed a small decline, to produce the largest export surplus in 3 years, according to preliminary figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The December rise in exports followed a moderate increase in November but declines in earlier months of the year resulted in an overall decrease of 5.5% in the year's value. Imports declined 6.6% in 1954, declines being common to all months except June and November.

Total exports in December were valued at \$395,300,000, an increase of 9.5% over the preceding year's \$360,900,000 and the highest since June and July 1953 when shipments of wheat were exceptionally high. Total value for the calendar year was \$3,945,700,000 versus \$4,172,600,000 in 1953. Commodity imports were slightly lower in value in December being estimated at \$337,000,000 versus \$338,400,000, bringing the year's total to \$4,094,600,000 versus \$4,382,800,000 in 1953.

The substantial rise in exports coupled with the small decline in imports produced an estimated export surplus in December of \$58,300,000. This compares with an export surplus of \$22,500,000 in December, 1953. The estimated import balance for the full year 1954 amounted to \$148,900,000, substantially reduced from 1953's \$210,200,000.

Exports to the United States in December dropped to \$219,500,000 from \$223,500,000 a year earlier and the imports from that country

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NON-FARM INCOMES: A DBS publication released on January 26 presents some interesting new data on the distribution of family and individual incomes in Canada. Total cash income of non-farm families for the year 1951 is shown as \$11.5 billion. This was distributed among 3.6 million non-farm family units, with the average income for each family unit being nearly \$3,200. This figure includes unattached individuals.

In 1951 approximately one-half of all families received between \$1,500 and \$4,000, about one-quarter fell below this income group, while the remaining quarter had incomes in excess of \$4,000. Families in the lower income groups consisted largely of single persons living apart from relatives and of two-person families. Many of these were young and only recently employed, while others were elderly people (over 65), many living in retirement or semi-retirement.

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Gross value of products of Canada's tobacco and tobacco products industry in 1953 totalled \$378,851,000, down from the all-time 1952 peak of \$389,773,000.

fell to \$244,200,000 from \$246,800,000. The import surplus was little changed at \$24,700,000 versus \$23,300,000. In the full year 1954 exports to the United States dropped to \$2,363,100,000 from \$2,463,000,000 and imports to \$2,964,100,000 from \$3,221,200,000. The year's import surplus fell to \$601,000,000 from \$758,200,000 in 1953.

Total sales to the United Kingdom rose sharply in December to \$81,500,000 from \$47,600,000 a year earlier but the imports dropped to \$33,800,000 from \$38,300,000, and the export surplus rose sharply to \$47,700,000 from \$9,300,000. In the full year 1954 exports were slightly lower at \$661,600,000 versus \$668,900,000, and imports were down to \$392,400,000 from \$453,400,000. The result was an enlarged export surplus of \$269,200,000 versus \$215,500,000 in 1953.

December's exports to all other Commonwealth countries rose to \$16,500,000 from \$13,100,000 but imports fell to \$8,900,000 from \$9,400,000. The full year's exports to the group declined to \$196,500,000 from \$234,500,000 but the imports rose to \$182,900,000 from \$170,500,000.

Commodity exports to all other foreign countries in December were slightly higher at \$77,800,000 versus \$76,700,000 and the imports climbed to \$50,100,000 from \$43,900,000. In the year 1954 the exports to the group fell to \$724,500,000 from \$806,200,000 but imports rose to \$555,200,000 from \$537,700,000.

"QUEBEC" TO SOUTH AFRICA: HMCS Quebec has resumed her training cruise to South Africa following an unscheduled stop at Bermuda to land a seaman for hospitalization. The ship sailed January 22, after being further delayed by heavy weather in the Bermuda area.

The call at Bermuda during the first leg of her three-month training cruise around the continent of Africa will result in some changes in the Quebec's future programme.

The training cruiser is now scheduled to call at Freetown, Sierra Leone, on January 29, departing the same day for Cape Town, South Africa, arriving February 7. She will remain in Cape Town until February 11 and then visit Port Elizabeth from February 12 to 15 and Durban, Natal, from February 16 to 24. Her visit to Mombasa, Kenya, will be made as originally scheduled, from March 1 to 4.

Later in March she will sail through the Suez Canal and visit ports in the Eastern Mediterranean and Southern Europe before returning to Halifax April 15.

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The Royal Canadian Artillery Band will sail for Europe early in February aboard the Saxonian.