

LARGE GAIN IN SHIPMENTS TO U. K.

MARCH EXPORTS UP: A large gain in shipments to the United Kingdom was the main factor in raising the value of Canada's domestic exports in March moderately above a year earlier for the first time since October last, according to the Bureau's monthly summary statement. Exports to the United States were slightly lower in value as were those to other Commonwealth countries, Latin American and European countries, but there was a rise in value to other foreign countries.

Total shipments in March were substantially above February in value, making a progressive gain from the low level of January. There were successive advances during the quarter in sales to the United Kingdom, United States and Latin America that heavily outweighed similarly successive declines to Europe and the remaining foreign countries.

Domestic exports to all countries in March were valued at \$315,700,000 as compared with \$307,800,000 a year ago, the rise being due to larger volume, since prices averaged 3% lower. The small overall rise in March over last year was not sufficient to offset the large decline in January and the value of shipments to all countries in the first quarter of this year declined to \$851,000,000 from the preceding year's \$900,600,000. Volume in the period was about 3.4% lower.

Most of the month's increase in exports occurred in the wood and paper group, with planks and boards, wood pulp, and newsprint paper accounting for a major share of the rise. Non-metallic minerals and chemicals both moved moderately higher and agricultural and vegetable products, animals and animal products, and fibres and textiles were steady. There were sizeable declines in iron and products, and non-ferrous metals.

Domestic exports to the United States in March declined slightly to \$200,801,000 from \$202,391,000 a year earlier, and the first-quarter total fell to \$526,534,000 from \$564,301,000. Main decreases both in March and the January-March period were in wood and paper, iron and products, non-ferrous metals, and

agricultural and vegetable product groups. Chemicals and allied products were higher in value.

Mainly as a result of larger shipments of agricultural and vegetable products, wood and paper, and non-ferrous metals, exports to the United Kingdom rose in March to \$52,314,000 from \$38,525,000 a year earlier. In the quarter, agricultural and vegetable products, and wood and paper products were higher in value, but non-ferrous metals were lower, and the overall value climbed to \$134,683,000 from \$123,934,000.

March exports to other Commonwealth countries declined to \$13,432,000 from \$16,480,000, and in the quarter to \$37,255,000 from \$55,796,000. Shipments were higher in value in both periods to the Union of South Africa and New Zealand, but lower to India and Pakistan. Australia's March value was down, but the January-March total was higher.

Shipments to Latin American countries sloped off in March to \$14,688,000 from \$16,767,000, and in the quarter to \$38,130,000 from \$47,875,000. There were reduced shipments in both periods to Argentina and Brazil, increased sales to Cuba and Venezuela. Total for Colombia was higher in March but lower in the quarter, and for Mexico down in March but up in the three months.

Shipments to European countries showed no pronounced changes with March sales at \$18,104,000 compared with \$18,256,000, and first-quarter shipments at \$59,818,000 compared with \$59,213,000. There were increased exports in both March and the first quarter to France, Federal Republic of Germany, Italy, and Switzerland. Shipments to Belgium and Luxembourg were up in March but down in the quarter, while sales to the Netherlands and Norway were down in March but up in the three-month period.

Mainly due to increased shipments to Japan, exports to the remaining group of foreign countries climbed in value in March to \$15,528,000 from \$13,593,000 a year earlier, and in the quarter to \$51,667,000 from \$45,254,000.

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LABOUR INCOME UP: Canadian labour income for February was estimated at \$947,000,000, up \$6,000,000 from the preceding month and \$27,000,000 or nearly 3% higher than a year earlier. This brought the cumulative total for the first two months of the year to \$1,888,000,000 as compared with \$1,848,000,000 at the same time last year.

All major industrial groups with the exception of construction, contributed to the small rise in labour income as compared with January. Total wages and salaries in manufac-

turing advanced \$3,000,000; each of the totals for the distributive group of industries and for finance and services increased \$2,000,000, and that for the primary industries rose \$1,000,000. A decline of \$2,000,000 in construction wages and salaries followed the seasonal pattern of recent years.

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Farmers netted \$1,656,600,000 last year, 13% less than in 1952 and 23% less than in the peak year of 1951.