

C-530

**FEBRUARY EXPORTS UP:** Canadian shipments of agricultural and vegetable products, animal and animal products, wood and paper, chemical and miscellaneous products were higher in value in February than in February last year, but these gains were offset by declines in iron and non-ferrous metal products and non-metallic minerals and their products, according to detailed final figures on domestic exports for the month released by the Bureau.

Among the major commodities, there were substantial gains in newsprint, paper, wood pulp, fish and fishery products, wheat flour, cattle and meats, and nickel, and declines in wheat, planks and boards, automobiles and trucks, farm machinery, copper, zinc and asbestos.

February exports were higher in value to the United Kingdom, lower to other Commonwealth countries, the United States and Europe, and higher to Latin America and the remaining group of foreign countries.

Total value of all exports domestic and foreign - as reported last week, was \$279,800,000 in February as compared to \$279,600,000 in February last year. Domestic exports accounted for \$274,700,000 of last month's total, slightly under last year's corresponding figure of \$275,500,000. The volume of exports was a shade higher this February than a year ago, prices showing a narrow decline. Due to the marked decline in January, the cumulative value of domestic exports for the January-February period fell to \$535,400,000 from \$592,800,000 last year.

Domestic exports to the United States in February dropped to \$168,666,000 from \$173,319,000 a year earlier, and the January-February sales total fell to \$325,733,000 from \$361,910,000.

The month's sales to the United Kingdom were substantially higher in value at \$44,438,000 as compared with \$36,175,000, but with January's exports down to \$37,831,000 from \$49,235,000 the January-February value declined to \$82,368,000 from \$85,410,000.

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**BATTALION TO KOREA:** Several months of intensive training manoeuvres and a 19-day sea voyage ended at a west coast Korean port when the 2nd Battalion, Queen's Own Rifles of Canada, arrived in the Far East to become part of the 25th Canadian Infantry Brigade. The unit succeeds the 3rd Battalion, The Royal Canadian Regiment, which will return shortly to Canada after a year's service in the theatre.

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Imports from the United Kingdom rose 26% in value last year, from Europe 14.5%, from the United States 8% and from Latin America 2%, but 8% less was bought from other Commonwealth countries, 1% less from other foreign countries.

**ST. LAWRENCE SEAWAY:** Although Canada could proceed at a moment's notice to develop the all-Canadian seaway, "the door never has been closed on United States participation" in the project even though "the possibility has appeared remote until recently", the Minister of Transport, Mr. Lionel Chevrier, said in addressing the Cornwall Board of Trade on April 2. He added "now that success is in sight, it appears that the United States may indeed come up with a firm proposal to build one or two of the navigation canals of the seaway".

As to the date of actual start of construction of the St. Lawrence Seaway, Mr. Chevrier pointed out that opponents of the project had until May 20 to appeal to the Supreme Court of the United States "and that appeal will be the end of court action". He hoped if an appeal is made that "the case can be heard and a favourable decision will be made known before the court rises for the summer". He warned, however, that "the timing is close".

Outlining the possible expansion of the City of Cornwall under the St. Lawrence Seaway and Power project, Mr. Chevrier predicted that the present population of 33,000 for greater Cornwall would increase to 100,000 within a comparatively few years.

Mr. Chevrier said that "the most pressing concern of the St. Lawrence waterfront region, with a start on actual construction looming so near, will be with making the necessary adjustments to the physical changes that will take place". The new works, he said, will create a huge lake extending from Cornwall almost to Prescott and the flooding will seriously affect six municipalities. The Minister suggested that the problems to be faced were three-fold: to preserve the scenic beauty of the area; to rehabilitate the communities affected; and to compensate the individual property owner.

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**FUR FARM DECLINE:** Fur farming in Canada (exclusive of Newfoundland) continued to decline in 1952, the number of farms dropping from 3,072 in 1951 to 2,518, the number of animals from 315,485 to 306,523, and the revenues from the sale of live animals and pelts to \$11,100,000 from \$12,400,000.

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**EXPORT CREDITS INSURANCE:** The Export Credits Insurance Corporation paid out \$2,185,476 to Canadian exporters in 1953, covering 273 claims, due mainly to exchange transfer difficulties in foreign countries, according to the Corporation's annual report.

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Inventories of manufacturers were valued at an estimated \$3,607,300,000 at the close of last year, a 4% rise from \$3,479,000,000 at the end of 1952.