

EXPORTS TO UNITED STATES UP: Featured by further gains in sales to the United States and in shipments of bacon and hams, wood pulp, aluminum, nickel and other non-ferrous metals, Canadian merchandise exports in April were valued at \$212,300,000, an increase of 11 per cent over the total of \$190,900,000 for April last year, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Aggregate value of exports for the four months ended April amounted to \$884,400,000 compared with \$788,000,000 last year, an advance of 12 per cent.

Exports to the United States in April were nearly 24 per cent higher in value than in April last year, amounting to \$109,219,000 compared with \$88,291,000, the gain of \$20,928,000 being nearly equal to the total dollar gain in the month's exports. The percentage rise compares with increases in earlier months this year ranging from 32 to 37 per cent. Total exports to the United States in the four months this year were valued at \$421,553,000 as against \$320,237,000 in the similar period of 1947, an advance of more than 31 per cent.

Shipments to the United Kingdom increased slightly in April to \$44,353,000 compared with \$43,070,000 last year, showing a smaller gain than in the preceding three months. Aggregate to the end of April was \$220,143,000 compared with \$185,963,000 in the first four months of 1947.

EXPORTS TO EUROPE

In contrast with the downward trend of the first quarter of the year, exports to European countries as a whole rose fractionally in April to \$17,875,000 compared with \$17,286,000 last year, bringing the aggregate for the four months to \$90,228,000 against \$93,391,000 in 1947. Shipments to the Latin American group of countries, however, continued their earlier decline, being valued at \$8,889,000 in April compared with \$9,663,000 a year earlier, the aggregate for the four months amounting to \$35,052,000 against \$44,876,000 last year.

Exports to leading Canadian markets in April, next to the United States and United Kingdom, with figures for April last year in brackets, were as follows in order of April values (thousands omitted): Union of South Africa, \$7,920 (\$6,295); France, \$4,003 (\$2,723); Newfoundland, \$3,921 (\$2,263); Netherlands, \$2,656 (\$2,644); Australia, \$2,499 (\$5,852); India, \$2,173 (\$1,214 for India and Pakistan); Belgium, \$1,904 (\$1,575); Italy, \$1,795 (\$2,519); China, \$1,742 (\$2,014); Mexico, \$1,447 (\$1,178); Brazil, \$1,406 (\$1,490); Venezuela, \$1,348 (\$1,083).

Increases were spread through eight of the nine commodity groups in April, with largest gains recorded for non-ferrous metals and products and for animals and animal products. The agricultural and vegetable products group was lower.

Continuing its marked gains in earlier months, the non-ferrous group increased in

April to \$28,800,000 compared with \$18,700,000 last year, aluminum and products, nickel and zinc leading in degree of increase. The animals and animal products group was next in absolute gain, rising to \$28,909,000 as compared with \$20,404,000 in April 1947. Increase in this group was due chiefly to a sharp advance in bacon and hams and substantial but smaller gains in cattle and other living animals.

The wood and wood products group was moderately higher at \$74,202,000 against \$73,040,000, a large increase in wood pulp being largely offset by declines in planks and boards and other unmanufactured wood. The iron group increased to \$23,200,000 compared with \$20,200,000, farm machinery and implements, other machinery, ferro-alloys and rolling-mill products being higher and automobiles lower. Agricultural and vegetable products declined to \$32,500,000 compared with \$37,400,000, mainly as the result of lower figures for wheat and wheat flour.

Among the remaining groups, fibres, textiles and products rose to \$3,400,000 compared with \$3,200,000; non-metallic minerals and products to \$7,300,000 against \$5,500,000; chemicals and allied products to \$7,200,000 compared with \$6,500,000; and miscellaneous commodities to \$6,800,000 compared with \$5,800,000.

AIR TRANSPORT: Air carriers transported 62,081 revenue passengers during December to register a gain of four per cent over the revised figure of 60,519 for the same month of 1946, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Traffic on scheduled Canadian lines was off slightly but other Canadian carriers increased from 2,650 to 8,566. Passengers on international routes served by Canadian companies rose by about 100 to 7,148, but foreign line traffic to and from Canada dropped from 14,592 to 10,947 passengers. Canadian carriers reported passenger revenues of \$1,119,135 against \$836,046, reflecting increased traffic and the 10 per cent rise in fares inaugurated in April, 1947.

NEW DWELLING UNITS: There were approximately 76,700 new dwelling units completed in Canada in 1947, an increase of 9,400 or 14 per cent over the total for 1946. There were 71,400 dwelling units or 93.1 per cent resulting from new construction, 5,300 dwelling units or 6.9 per cent from conversions in 1947, as compared with 60,600 dwelling units or 90 per cent by new construction and 6,700 or 10 per cent by conversions, in 1946. Completions in 1947 which resulted from new construction alone increased by 18 per cent over the preceding year.

While new dwelling unit completions in metropolitan areas increased by over 10 per cent, from 22,797 in 1946 to 25,179 in 1947, these represent only 32.8 per cent of the

total for 1947 as against 33.9 per cent of completions in 1946. Completions in other urban areas, however, reflect a marked upward trend, totalling 31,295 in 1947, an increase of over 20 per cent, and represent 40.8 per cent of the completions in 1947 as compared with 38.6 per cent for 1946.

Of the total dwelling units completed in 1947, 58,282 or 76 per cent were created by the construction of single dwellings.

COAL PRODUCTION: Coal production in April amounted to 1,579,857 tons, making a total of 5,752,324 tons for the first four months of this year, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. During April last year, production was reduced to 850,887 tons as a result of the strikes in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. Imports during the month totalled 1,035,388 tons as against 1,550,355 a year ago, and in the four months, 4,445,945 tons compared with 5,282,014.

WHEAT STOCKS: Stocks of Canadian wheat in store or in transit in North America at midnight on May 13 amounted to 64,603,631 bushels compared with 69,416,269 on May 6 and 87,793,896 on the corresponding date last year, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Deliveries from farms in the Prairie Provinces totalled 1,223,879 bushels compared with 739,274 in the preceding week.

Overseas export clearances of wheat during the week ending May 13 totalled 3,676,372 bushels compared with 5,347,416 in the preceding week, bringing the total for the period August 1 - May 13 to 99,147,624 bushels compared with 111,568,335 in the similar period of 1946-47.

CAR LOADINGS: Car loadings of revenue freight for the week ending May 15 aggregated 77,458 cars, an increase of 2,120 cars over the preceding week but 442 cars or 0.6 per cent below the same week last year, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. In the eastern division, loadings totalled 53,640 cars, an improvement of 2,453 cars over the same week last year. The western division, however, was off 2,895 cars, due principally to decreased loadings of grain and flood conditions in some sections. Cars received from foreign connections continued to decline and were 33,276 cars compared with 36,639.

LOWER EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENT: The educational requirement for enlistment into the Canadian armed forces has been lowered slightly to embrace a large group of young Canadians previously ineligible for entry, the Hon. Brooke Claxton, Minister of National Defence, announced May 25.

The standard has previously been junior matriculation "or its equivalent", with exceptions in the case of certain veterans. The equivalent has been recognized as a high school leaving certificate or a commercial, technical or vocational certificate - a standard established because most technical, radio and clerical trades in the armed forces required that recruits possess that much formal education to undertake successfully the training required.

In addition, and apart from education, candidates are required to possess other qualifications in regard to age, character, nationality, physical and mental fitness.

It has now been shown that civilian trade experience and learning ability can compensate for slight deficiencies in formal education. Improvement in training methods and facilities and the younger ages at which recruits are entering the forces have made it practicable in certain trades fields to accept men with less than junior matriculation.

Generally speaking, applicants with one or two years less than junior matriculation are now considered for enlistment provided they are suitable prospects and meet other requirements.

Educational facilities of the navy, army and air force provide means for men within the services to advance to the educational level required in the trades field to which they have been allocated.

CHFC FORT CHURCHILL: The fourth military broadcasting station in the Canadian far north -- and the most northerly one covering the eastern arctic -- has been opened by the Army at Fort Churchill, Man. It began operating May 1, eight hours daily, as radio station CHFC.

Already the new station has proven very popular with both white and native populations and servicemen stationed at the camp are ready to bet that the Eskimos in the region soon will be trading in their gramophones for radio sets. Some have already done so. Army radio announcers at Whitehorse, Aklavik and Dawson all report that both Indian and Eskimo tastes in radio programmes run to recordings of cowboy laments -- and the sadder the better.

CHFC is owned and operated by the Regimental Institutes of Fort Churchill and receives its technical advice and assistance from the Royal Canadian Corps of Signals. Fourth in a series of Army broadcasting stations licensed by the Department of Transport, it provides entertainment for Churchill and vicinity and all northern outposts within range. It carries local talent, news, major CBC network programmes, and American Armed Forces radio service programmes.

The station is operated on a voluntary basis by service personnel and is now planning a theatre group organized by Canadian and American residents of the camp.