

showing a similar moderate upward trend to September last year when imports were valued at \$221,700,000 compared with \$206,500,000 in the preceding month. The total for the month, however, was the first this year to fall below the corresponding month of 1948, and was considerably lower than the levels characteristic in the first half of this year. Aggregate value of \$2,073,900,000 for the nine months was \$150,600,000 over 1948, making an average monthly gain of \$16,700,000.

Imports were higher in value both in September and the nine months from the United States. European countries as a whole, and the British West Indies, lower in the month but higher in the nine months from the United Kingdom and the Oceania group of Commonwealth countries, and lower both in the month and cumulative period from Commonwealth countries in Africa and Asia, and from Latin America and the remaining foreign countries.

September purchases from the United States at \$158,000,000 increased substantially over the August value of \$143,600,000 but the gain over September last year was the smallest for any month this year. The cumulative total for the nine months amounted to \$1,470,600,000, about 11 per cent above the comparable total of \$1,322,700,000 for 1948 but only slightly exceeding the 1947 aggregate of \$1,468,200,000.

Imports from the United Kingdom in September declined for the first time this year to \$21,900,000 from \$24,100,000 but the nine-month aggregate remained above last year at \$240,700,000 compared with \$217,300,000, both figures being substantially above the 1947 total of \$133,000,000.

"SURPLUS" \$305.3 MILLIONS: The Minister of Finance, Mr. Abbott, released on November 12 the monthly statement of the Comptroller of the Treasury covering revenues and expenditures for the month of October and the fiscal year to date.

Total revenues of the Government for the month of October amounted to \$201.7 million compared with \$215.5 million in October, 1948. Total revenue receipts for the first seven months of the current fiscal year amounted to \$1,442.3 million compared with \$1,530.3 million for the same period a year ago.

The declines in recent months in excise taxes and personal income taxes due to reductions in rates announced in the March budget continued in October. This decline in revenue was partly offset by an increase in collections of corporation income tax. Customs revenue and Excise Duties in October were practically the same as last year.

Total expenditures in the month of October amounted to \$175.6 million compared with \$151.2 million in October, 1948. Aggregate expenditures in the first seven months of the current fiscal year were \$1,137.0 million or an increase of \$140.4 million over the corresponding period a year ago. These expenditure

increases were accounted for to a substantial extent by increases in National Defence - \$9.9 million for the month and \$55.5 million for seven months. There were also increases in payments to the provinces due chiefly to the accession of Newfoundland (\$6.4 million for seven months) and in National Health and Welfare, due largely to the recent changes in legislation relating to Old Age Pensions and Family Allowances (\$25.8 million in total for seven months).

Revenues for October exceeded expenditures by \$26.1 million. This brought the so-called budgetary surplus for the first seven months of the fiscal year to \$305.3 million compared with a budgetary surplus of \$533.7 million in the first seven months of the last year.

Mr. Abbott stated that "while this budgetary surplus for the first seven months appears to be large, it will not be maintained in the later months of the year. Expenditures always are greater in the latter part of the year due to many items being charged at the end of the fiscal year e.g., deficits of Government owned enterprises, interest on unfunded debt, charges to reserves, etc. Revenues on the other hand are greater in the first part of the fiscal year. Accordingly, I have no reason to change the estimate I made in my budget speech of October 20, that the surplus for the full year is likely to be about \$90 million".

This budgetary surplus of \$305.3 million for seven months does not take into account certain outlays and certain receipts which are not expenditures or revenues in the true accounting sense. The Comptroller's statement shows that there were such disbursements, comprising outlays for loans, advances and investments, amounting to \$20.6 million in October and \$131.3 million in the first seven months of the fiscal year.

EXCHANGE RULE ALTERATION: A change in the rules governing exchanges in Canada by non-residents, and in the United States by residents, of Canadian municipal securities has been notified by the Foreign Exchange Control Board to Canadian security dealers.

Heretofore municipal securities have been classed for exchange control purposes with "corporate" securities and could be exchanged only for other securities in that category. They are now being regarded as in the same category as securities issued or guaranteed by the Government of Canada or a Province and exchanges of municipal securities will, therefore, be permitted in future within this group rather than in the "corporate" category.

B.C. WILDLIFE OFFICER: The Minister of Mines and Resources, Mr. Gibson on November 14 announced that the Civil Service Commission has approved the appointment of Ronald Hugh MacKay of Vancouver as Dominion Wildlife Officer for British Columbia.

TRADE BALANCE IS DOWN SHARPLY

EXPORTS SHOW DECREASE: With imports of merchandise practically unchanged and exports below the unusually high value of September last year, Canada had a small credit balance in total foreign trade of \$9,400,000 in the month, down sharply from \$64,400,000 in September, 1948. This brought the cumulative credit balance for the nine months ending September to only \$93,100,000 as compared with \$261,600,000 for January-September last year and \$135,000,000 for the like 1947 period, the Bureau of Statistics reports.

Canada's imports in September were valued at \$221,600,000 as against \$221,700,000 a year ago, and for January to September totalled \$2,073,900,000 compared with \$1,923,300,000 in 1948. Domestic exports in the month amounted to \$228,400,000 compared with \$283,000,000 last year, and in the nine months to \$2,146,000,000 as against \$2,158,200,000. With exports of foreign produce included, Canada's total trade to the end of September reached the record value of \$4,240,900,000 as compared with the previous peak for the period of \$4,108,200,000 last year.

Imports from the United States in September increased moderately to \$158,000,000 compared with \$152,700,000 a year earlier, while exports fell off to \$113,700,000 from the exceptionally high month's figure of \$162,000,000 last September, thus producing a trade

deficit of \$42,600,000 for the month in contrast with the unusual credit balance of \$11,400,000 last year. As a result the debit balance for the nine months this year rose to \$431,700,000, substantially above the aggregate debit of \$265,600,000 for the same period of 1948 but also substantially below that of \$718,300,000 in 1947.

Purchases from the United Kingdom fell off in September from \$24,100,000 last year to \$21,900,000, which is the lowest month's value since March, 1948. On the other hand, domestic exports to the United Kingdom increased to \$56,900,000 as compared with \$47,900,000 in September, 1948. The balance of trade in Canada's favour rose to \$35,500,000 for the month compared with \$24,100,000, but for the nine months remained below the 1948 level at \$288,400,000 as against \$300,100,000.

In trade with all other Commonwealth and foreign countries, Canadian sales exceeded purchases in the month by \$16,500,000 compared with \$28,900,000 in September last year, and in the nine months by \$236,400,000 compared with \$227,100,000.

Net exports of non-monetary gold were slightly lower in September this year than last at \$11,200,000 compared with \$11,900,000, but were higher in the nine months at \$97,800,000 compared with \$87,500,000.

INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT: There was a further upward movement in employment in the major industrial divisions at the beginning of September, the percentage increase over August 1 being somewhat above normal in the experience of earlier years, and also above the gain indicated at September 1, 1948. Data were received by the Bureau of Statistics from 20,503 leading employers whose working forces rose 0.7 per cent, while their expenditures in weekly payrolls advanced 1.2 per cent from August 1.

The gain in weekly payrolls partly resulted from upward adjustments in the wage rates in some establishments, but was also due in part to the resumption of more normal operations in certain establishments in which the staffs had been on vacation a month earlier. Vacations continued to affect the situation in the period under review, however, and inventory-taking reduced the payrolls in some instances. The per capita weekly wage stood at \$43.27 at September 1 as compared with \$43.05 at the beginning of August, and \$40.86 at September 1, 1948.

Based on the 1926 average as 100, the index of employment was 201.0 as compared with 199.7 at August 1 and 201.8 at September 1, 1948. This is the second month in succession in which the comparison with 12 months earlier

has been unfavourable. Indexes for September 1 this year and last were, however, the highest for that date in the 29 years for which data are available.

There was considerable expansion in employment in manufacturing at the beginning of September. Improvement was also indicated in mining, communications, building construction, and wholesale trade. On the other hand, curtailment of operations as compared with August 1 was noted in logging, highway and railway construction and maintenance, water transportation, hotels and restaurants and laundries, and dry-cleaning establishments. As compared with September 1 last year, there were increases in employment in mining, communications, trade and services. Employment was lower in the remaining major industrial divisions, among which logging showed the greatest decline, the index number in that industry being nearly 73 per cent below the figure in the same period of last year.

WILLISON MEMORIAL: A bronze tablet, commemorating the achievements of Sir John Stephen Willison, was unveiled with appropriate ceremony during a meeting of the Huron County Council at Goderich, Ontario, on Wednesday, November 16.