

DOMESTIC EXPORTS SET RECORD

Canada's domestic exports topped all previous years in 1956, rising 12 per cent in value to \$4,789,500,000 from the preceding year's \$4,281,800,000 and more than 11 per cent from the previous record of \$4,301,081,000 in 1952, according to final figures for the year released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Volume of exports also reached record levels, rising 8.6 per cent over 1955, while prices averaged 2.9 per cent higher. December's value rose 11 per cent to \$403,700,000 from \$375,800,000 a year earlier.

Record shipments abroad of primary and semi-processed metals, minerals and chemicals, and large gains in agricultural products contributed heavily to the year's impressive total. Among individual commodities there were large gains in wheat and other grains, iron ore, aluminum and products, copper and products, petroleum and products, and newsprint paper. Planks and boards, farm implements and machinery and fertilizers were among the exports with lower values.

Gains in exports were general to all main geographic areas. Over half the total gain was in shipments to the United States, but there were also sharp gains in shipments to European countries. Exports to the United Kingdom and other Commonwealth countries and Latin American countries showed lesser increases.

Exports to the United States reached an all-time peak of \$2,818,693,000 in the year, an increase of 10 per cent over the preceding year's \$2,559,343,000. They accounted for close to three-fifths of total domestic exports in both years. Larger values were posted for all main commodity groups except animals and products, largest dollar increases being in agricultural and vegetable products, wood and paper products, iron and products, non-ferrous metals, and non-metallic minerals.

Shipments to the United Kingdom showed an increase of 5.6 per cent to \$812,668,000 from \$769,313,000 in the preceding year, and accounted for about 17 per cent of all domestic

exports in both years. Gains were almost general among the commodity groups, exceptions being wood and paper and miscellaneous commodities. Largest increases were in agricultural and vegetable products and non-ferrous metals and products.

Domestic exports to the rest of the Commonwealth were moderately higher at \$243,226,000 versus \$237,124,000 in 1955, larger shipments to Jamaica, Union of South Africa, India and Pakistan more than offsetting smaller exports to Australia and New Zealand.

With substantially larger exports to Brazil, Cuba, Mexico, Panama, Peru, and Venezuela, and smaller gains to 9 more of the 20, total domestic exports to Latin American countries rose in 1956 to \$176,436,000 from \$160,829,000 in the preceding year.

General gains to all chief European markets boosted the total area value in 1956 to \$537,827,000 from \$388,888,000 in 1955. Among the larger gains were Belgium and Luxembourg, France, Federal Republic of Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, and Switzerland. Large movements of wheat early in the year resulted in sharp gains in the year's shipments to Czechoslovakia, Poland and the U.S.S.R.

Mainly as a result of a sharp gain in exports to Japan, total domestic exports to all other foreign countries rose to \$182,942,000 in 1956 from \$150,903,000 in the preceding year.

Commodity-group values for the year 1956 were as follows, in thousands: agricultural and vegetable products, \$974,400 (\$752,300 in 1955); animals and animal products, \$260,200 (\$263,600); fibres, textiles and products, \$22,600 (\$22,800); wood, wood products and paper, \$1,514,800 (\$1,520,900); iron and products, \$458,800 (\$398,800); non-ferrous metals and products, \$913,700 (\$826,400); non-metallic minerals and products, \$292,100 (\$206,200); chemicals and products, \$228,600 (\$210,000); and miscellaneous commodities, \$124,200 (\$80,700).

\$220,470,000 from \$209,597,000, 7.8 per cent in Ontario to \$413,527,000 from \$383,775,000, 4.4 per cent in Manitoba to \$107,502,000 from \$102,988,000, 9.4 per cent in Saskatchewan to \$63,002,000 from \$57,563,000, 12 per cent in Alberta to \$127,566,000 from \$113,942,000, and 10.8 per cent in British Columbia to \$209,669,000 from \$189,220,000.

December sales were (in thousands): Atlantic Provinces, \$13,922 (\$13,689) a year earlier; Quebec, \$29,550 (\$20,939); Ontario, \$57,121 (\$55,511); Manitoba, \$14,220 (\$13,466); Saskatchewan, \$8,078 (\$7,607); Alberta, \$17,590 (\$15,919); and British Columbia, \$29,093 (\$26,938).

DEPARTMENT STORE SALES: Department store sales reached a record total in 1956 at an estimated \$1,242,004,000, 8 per cent greater than 1955's previous high of \$1,150,455,000, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics reports. December sales were 4 per cent greater than a year earlier at \$169,574,000 compared to \$163,069,000. All provinces shared in the increase in 1956, and some 25 of the 29 specified departments recorded larger sales. End-of-November stocks (at selling value) were 10.1 per cent larger than a year earlier at \$318,651,000 against \$289,366,000.

Sales rose 7.4 per cent in the Atlantic Provinces in 1956 to \$100,268,000 from \$93,370,000 in 1955, 5.2 per cent in Quebec to