

EXPORTS AND IMPORTS

Canada's exports during the first quarter of this year were valued at \$1,291,500,000 and were 22.8 per cent higher than in the corresponding period of 1959, while the quarter's imports were valued at \$1,330,200,000, higher by 9.3 per cent than a year earlier, according to preliminary figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Thus the import balance in the first quarter of 1960 was sharply reduced to \$38,700,000, from \$166,200,000 in the same period of 1959.

Exports to all countries in March 1960 were valued at \$439,500,000 and were 15.3 per cent higher than last year. The March increase compared with gains of 33.5 per cent in February and 21.2 per cent in January of this year over the corresponding totals last year, continuing the uninterrupted monthly year-to-year increases that started in September 1959. Imports from all countries went up 10 per cent to \$476,400,000 in March 1960, following an increase of 19 per cent in February and a very small decline in January of this year.

SALES TO U.S.

Exports to the United States rose 18.7 per cent to \$768,300,000 in the first quarter of 1960, and imports from that country rose 7.8 per cent to \$938,300,000. As a result Canada's import balance with the United States was reduced to \$170,000,000 from \$223,300,000 in the corresponding period of 1959. Between the first quarters of 1959 and 1960, the United States share of Canada's exports declined to 59.5 per cent from 61.5 per cent, and the proportion of Canada's imports accounted for by that country declined to 70.5 per cent from 71.5 per cent.

Exports to the United Kingdom increased 27.8 per cent to \$209,300,000 in the first three months of 1960, and imports from that country rose 37 per cent to \$147,600,000. Canada's export balance with the United Kingdom went up to \$61,700,000 from \$56,100,000 in the same period of 1959. Over the two periods, the portion of Canada's exports going to the United Kingdom increased to 16.2 per cent from 15.6 per cent, and the share of Canada's imports coming from that country rose to 11.1 per cent from 8.8 per cent.

Exports to the Commonwealth (excluding the United Kingdom) went up 9.1 per cent to \$69,600,000 in the first quarter of 1960, and imports from that area increased 26.7 per cent to \$47,500,000. There was thus a reduction in Canada's export balance with the Commonwealth to \$22,100,000 from \$26,300,000. Between the first quarters of 1959 and 1960, the share of the Canadian export total accounted for by the Commonwealth declined to 5.4 per cent from 6.1 per cent, but the portion of the Canadian import total coming from that area rose to 3.6 per cent from 3.1 per cent.

Exports to all the remaining countries increased 38.6 per cent to \$244,300,000 in the first three months of 1960, but imports from that group of countries declined 2.5 per cent to \$196,700,000. As a result last year's import balance of \$25,400,000 gave way to an export balance of \$47,600,000. Over the two periods, the proportion of Canada's exports going to all the remaining countries rose to 18.9 per cent from 16.8 per cent, but there was a reduction of those countries' share in the Canadian import total to 14.8 per cent from 16.6 per cent.

RESOURCES MEET IN MONTREAL

The national "Resources for Tomorrow" Conference will be held at Montreal in late September of 1961, it was decided at a recent meeting in Ottawa of the Conference policy sub-committee.

Resources Minister Alvin Hamilton, sub-committee chairman, said that "excellent progress" had been made in organizing the Conference since the appointment of a secretariat in October 1959. During the next 12 months a number of detailed background papers on various aspects of renewable resources would, he said, be prepared by leading Canadian experts on these subjects. These papers would provide information on which Conference discussion would be based.

Mr. Hamilton said the Conference would last a possible six days and would be attended by at least 500. A number of national organizations would be invited to send representatives to the Conference as participants or observers.

HAMMOCK OR HOLDALL?

The hammock, once the sailor's sea-going bed, has been reduced by progress to the role of a receptacle for his laundry and mail. The fitting of bunks in new destroyer escorts and in modernized ships has resulted in the hammock becoming almost a thing of the past. Hammocks are used now only by men serving in "Tribal" class destroyer escorts.

The hammock's new use is the result of a suggestion by Mr. Osborne Beamish, senior inspector on the inspection team of the Supply Officer-in-Chief at Naval Headquarters, that won him a cash award from the Suggestion Award Board of the Public Service of Canada. Mr. Beamish suggested surplus hammocks be folded and sewed up the sides to make bags suitable for soiled linen or cleaning. Details of the suggestion were forwarded to the Suggestion Award Board for assessment and trial, and the idea was adopted.

The bags have also proved useful for the handling of mail and publications.