

al products with their value virtually unchanged.

Increases in exports to Latin America were largest in ships, aircraft and newsprint. Declines occurred in exports of wheat flour, synthetic plastics, woodpulp and railway track material. Increased petroleum imports from this area accounted for about three fifths of the total imports gain for the region. Coffee from Brazil also contributed substantially to the overall import gain.

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STRATFORD APPOINTMENTS: Following the August 20th meeting of the board of governors of the Stratford Shakespearean Festival Foundation, it was announced by David Rae, vice-president of the board, that Michael Langham, artistic director of the festival, has also been appointed general manager, and that Victor Polley, box office and theatre manager has been appointed assistant general manager and comptroller.

These appointments follow the resignation of Peter Bennett, former managing director of the festival, who leaves his position September 30 to go to British Columbia as secretary and administrative director of the Vancouver Festival.

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HOUSING LOANS: Prime Minister John G. Diefenbaker announced August 21 that, in order to give immediate encouragement to the construction of more homes in the lower price category under the National Housing Act, the government has decided to make the sum of \$150 million available for housing loans forthwith. These loans will be open to home-owner applicants, builders and rental investors in all parts of Canada through the offices of the existing approved lenders who will operate as agents of Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation. Approved lenders include the chartered banks, insurance, loan and trust companies that have been lending under the provisions of the Act.

New housing starts in Canada during the first six months of 1957 were approximately 23 per cent fewer than in the same period of 1956. This decline is attributable in the main to a reduction in the available supply of mortgage funds, particularly under the National Housing Act. The Government's decision was made to ensure that any borrower qualifying under the Act and wishing to finance the construction of a lower priced house will not be prevented from doing so by the lack of mortgage funds. In the case of builders, loans will be made only as current sales warrant.

Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation will call a meeting of representatives of the approved lending agencies to work out details of the arrangement. Mr. Diefenbaker emphasized that the government funds are intended to supplement and in no way curtail the existing programmes for mortgage lending by these approved lending agencies.

NEW CANADIAN SHIP: Her Majesty's Canadian Ship Margaree will be commissioned at Halifax, N.S., on October 5, the Royal Canadian Navy announced Tuesday. She is the seventh of the new Canadian destroyer escorts to join the fleet and the second to be commissioned on the East Coast.

Later in the year, she will sail for Esquimalt, B.C., where she will join her sister ships, the Skeena and Fraser, commissioned on the West Coast earlier this year.

The Margaree will be sailed to Esquimalt by a crew made up largely of former members of the ship's company of the destroyer escort Sioux which was transferred to the East Coast this summer following 12 years' service in the Pacific Command.

The Margaree was laid down at Halifax Shipyards Limited, Halifax, on September 12, 1951, and launched on March 29, 1956. Like her predecessors, she is a streamlined vessel of Canadian design, armed with advanced anti-submarine armament and electronic detection equipment. She and her sister-ships are seen as being fully capable of carrying out their assigned anti-submarine role at sea for many years to come.

The new Margaree will be the second of her name to serve in the Royal Canadian Navy. The first Margaree, the former British destroyer Diana, was sunk in the North Atlantic in collision with a merchant ship on the night of October 22-23.

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INDOCHINA SHUFFLE: The major turnover of Canadian service personnel in Indochina will be completed early in September, Army Headquarters has announced.

More than 80 servicemen, the majority of them members of the Army, have already been flown to Saigon to replace servicemen who have completed tours of duty with the Military Component, Canadian Delegations to the International Supervisory Commissions in Viet Nam, Laos and Cambodia.

Some of the servicemen are employed as security guards in Indochina for approximately six months. The remainder serve for a 12-month tour of duty. Canada has about 125 members of the Army, Royal Canadian Navy, and Royal Canadian Air Force serving with the delegations.

Four round-trip flights by RCAF aircraft will complete the changeover. The final nine-day flight to Indochina carrying 15 additional servicemen will leave Dorval Airport, Montreal on August 29.

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MORE BABIES: Record numbers of babies were born in Canada in July and marriages rose to the highest monthly level in more than a decade, according to the Bureau's monthly report on vital statistics. Births registered in offices of provincial registrars in July totalled 45,795, bringing January-July registrations to 280,546.