

**\$210,200,000 IMPORT SURPLUS IN 1953**

**FINAL FIGURES:** Final figures for 1953, released March 12 by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, show that Canada's commodity imports in the year reached a total value of \$4,382,800,000 - slightly below the estimate issued last month - as against \$4,030,500,000 in 1952, making an increase of nearly 9%. Final total for exports, as earlier reported, amounted to \$4,172,600,000, resulting in an import surplus of \$210,200,000 as compared to an export surplus of \$325,500,000 for 1952.

Average prices of imports were fractionally lower in 1953 than in 1952, the increase in total import value being due to a rise of slightly more than 9% in volume. There were increases in imports of all main commodity groups except one, which was only narrowly lower, while purchases were higher from all but two main area classifications.

**FROM UNITED STATES**

Commodity purchases from the United States increased in value to \$3,221,261,000 compared to \$2,976,962,000 in 1952, accounting for about two-thirds of the dollar increase. Most of the increase was in machinery, automobiles and other metal products, chemicals, wood and paper, and miscellaneous groups. Groups including fuels and other non-metallic minerals and agricultural and vegetable products were lower. Total exports to the United States during the year showed a smaller rise to \$2,463,000,000 from \$2,349,100,000, and the import surplus with the United States increased to \$758,200,000 from \$627,900,000 the previous year.

Imports from the United Kingdom showed a much greater proportion rise to \$453,391,000 from \$359,757,000 in 1952, a gain of 26%. Since exports declined to \$668,800,000 from

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**WHEAT EXPORTS 1953-54:** Exports of Canadian wheat as grain and wheat flour in terms of wheat equivalent during the first half of the 1953-54 crop year amounted to 138,300,000 bushels, down from the preceding year's comparable movement of 190,300,000. January's exports were 17,800,000 bushels, the same as in December, but some 2,000,000 bushels below the 10-year average January exports of 19,800,000 bushels.

Total exports of wheat as grain during the half-year period amounted to 115,800,000 bushels as against 161,600,000 a year earlier, and exports of wheat flour totalled 22,600,000 bushels as compared with the adjusted figure of 28,600,000. In January, exports of wheat as grain amounted to 13,800,000 bushels, slightly above the figure for December, and the month's exports of wheat flour totalled 4,000,000 bushels compared with 4,100,000 in December and 3,400,000 last year.

\$751,000,000, the customary export surplus fell sharply to \$215,500,000 from \$391,300,000. Purchases from the United Kingdom were higher than the previous year in all main commodity groups, with the largest gains in the iron and textiles groups.

In contrast, commodity imports from other Commonwealth countries taken together dropped to \$170,571,000 from \$184,705,000, the major part of the decline being in purchases from the West Indies group, which dropped to \$41,900,000 from \$52,155,000. Imports were higher from Australia, Jamaica and Ceylon, lower from New Zealand, Barbados, British Guiana, Malaya and Singapore, and practically unchanged from India and the Union of South Africa.

**LATIN AMERICA**

Imports from Latin America moved up moderately to \$289,921,000 from \$284,222,000 in 1952, purchases increasing from Argentina, Columbia, Costa Rica, Guatemala and Venezuela and declining from Cuba, Dominican Republic, Mexico and Peru, while being practically unchanged from Brazil. Imports from Europe climbed to \$173,755,000 from \$151,745,000, the sharpest increase being to \$35,507,000 from \$22,629,000 for the Federal Republic of Germany.

Other main increases were in purchases from France, Italy, the Netherlands, Portugal, Sweden and Switzerland, while there were declines from Belgium and Luxembourg and Norway. Total value of imports from the remaining foreign countries was down slightly to \$65,464,000 from \$66,213,000, declines being recorded for Arabia, Netherlands Antilles and the Philippines and increases for Egypt and Lebanon; while imports from Japan were up slightly at \$13,629,000.

United Kingdom was the chief purchaser of Canadian wheat in the half-year period with a total of 37,300,000 bushels, representing 32% of the total outward movement of wheat.

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**LESS GOLD MINED:** Last year 4,068,516 fine ounces of gold were mined in Canada, 403,209 or 9% less than in 1952, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics has reported. Gains in the first six months of the year were more than offset by sharply lower production totals in the last half of 1953. Production from auriferous quartz mines and placer deposits was reduced to 3,603,255 from 3,916,590 fine ounces, while output from base metal mines dropped to 465,261 from 555,135 fine ounces.

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Over 93% of the national tobacco output is produced in Quebec.