

## NEW PEAK IN EXPORTS TO UNITED STATES

**BUT OVERALL TOTAL DOWN:** Canadian domestic exports to the United States reached a new all-time peak value in 1949 as the result of a gain of \$12,000,000 in December, which raised the year's total narrowly above the previous record value of 1948, but total domestic exports to all countries were down nearly three per cent in the year from the record peacetime total value of 1948.

Total value of domestic exports to the United States last year was \$1,503,459,000 as compared with \$1,500,987,000 in 1948, making up 50.2 per cent of the total value of exports to all countries as against 48.8 per cent in 1948. Shipments across the border in December were valued at \$159,766,000 as against \$147,832,000 a year earlier, the gain -- the greatest for any month in 1949 -- following upon a similar rise of \$8,000,000 in November. Gains were recorded also in each month from January to June and in August, but the cumulative increase of approximately \$32,000,000 at the end of August was heavily outweighed by a drop of \$50,000,000 in September. This loss was offset by the buoyant movement of goods in the last two months of the year.

### TOTAL EXPORTS TO ALL COUNTRIES

Total exports to all countries during 1949 were just under the \$3,000,000,000 mark, which was passed in 1948 for the first time in a peacetime year, being valued at \$2,993,000,000 as compared with \$3,075,400,000 the previous year and \$2,744,900,000 in 1947. The decline in the total was due mainly to a sharp reduction in the aggregate value of exports to European countries, the totals for other foreign geographical groups, and for Commonwealth countries as a whole (Newfoundland excluded) being higher although lower for most individual Commonwealth countries.

Various external influences affected Canadian exports during 1949. Due to general dollar shortages, overseas countries as a whole reduced the volume of their purchases in Canada throughout the year. Other reductions in volume occurred in exports to the United States as business readjustments in that country in the early part of the year curtailed demand. A revival of demand in the United States in the latter months of the year, however, made for some recovery in the volume.

**LANDINGS OF SEA FISH:** Landings and landed value of sea fish in Canada--excluding Newfoundland--were lower in 1949 than in the preceding year. The year's catch amounted to 1,176,767,000 pounds as compared with 1,277,350,000 in 1948, a decline of 7.6 per cent, while the value was \$53,660,000 compared with \$60,035,000, a decrease of 10.6 per cent.

In the same period the Canadian dollar was devalued, contributing further to a higher Canadian dollar value of exports to the United States in particular.

The volume of Canadian exports in the first half of 1949 was 5.9 per cent less than in the same period of 1948 and some 17 per cent less than in the second half of that year. In the second half of 1949 the volume rose appreciably but still was less than in the corresponding period of 1948.

Trends in export prices in 1949 were varied. In the first half of the year, taken as a whole, average export prices were eight per cent higher than in the first half of 1948 and slightly higher than in the second half of that year. But average export prices during the year to September were declining from the high level at the opening of 1949. However, the effect of the currency devaluations in September was to raise the Canadian dollar value of a large group of exports by an equivalent amount. Consequently, average export prices in terms of Canadian dollars recovered from part of the decline which had occurred in the first three quarters of the year.

In December, total exports to all countries declined in value to \$285,500,000 from \$316,400,000 a year earlier, accounting for more than a third of the year's decrease. Shipments were lower in the month to most geographical groups and principal countries, except the United States and United Kingdom.

### DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO U.K.

Domestic exports to the United Kingdom in 1949 totalled \$704,956,000, up from \$686,914,000 in 1948 but below the 1947 total of \$751,200,000. In December the value of shipments was \$49,884,000 as compared with \$48,515,000 in December, 1948.

Aggregate domestic exports to other Commonwealth countries for the 12 months were moderately higher in value at \$300,815,000 as against \$290,431,000 in 1948, but were down in December to \$26,816,000 as against \$40,906,000 a year earlier -- excluding figures for Newfoundland from the comparisons for both periods. These totals were maintained, however, by some exceptional items of trade like wheat and railway equipment to India and the Union of South Africa.

**DECLINE IN EMPLOYMENT:** Employment in the principal industrial divisions showed a further small decline at December 1, according to preliminary tabulations of monthly data by the Bureau of Statistics. The advance index number, on the base 1926=100, was 201.5 as compared with 202.0 at November 1, and 204.3 at December 1, 1948.