

10-MONTH IMPORT TOTAL \$2,308,200,000

UP \$141,400,000: Three major factors affected the composition and volume of Canadian imports in the first 10 months of 1949, the latest period for which the official figures are available. The supply situation in many lines of imported goods has eased since 1948, thus tending to increase the volume of imports. The relaxation of some of the Emergency Exchange Conservation restrictions first imposed in 1947 has had a similar effect. On the other hand, the abnormal post-war demand for some types of imports has subsided, reducing purchases of these goods. These three factors have also changed the relative importance of some supplying countries. The effects of import price changes have not been very great during the period. Only a small increase in average prices appears to have occurred, so that much of the increased value of imports in the 10 months has been due to a larger volume. As a result of these and other forces, the 10-month total value of imports for consumption rose to \$2,308.2 million, \$141.4 million above

the corresponding 1948 value. However, two of the main groups of imports did not rise over their 1948 totals. These were the non-metallic minerals group, which was affected by greatly reduced imports of fuels, and the fibres and textiles group, owing chiefly to lower imports of jute and raw wool. Imports in the animals and animal products group rose only slightly above the 1948 value. Total imports in September and October fell below the corresponding 1948 monthly values, and for some months previously had shown less increase over 1948 values than characterized the early months of 1949.

The trends of the first 10 months of this year may not be continued in the succeeding months. The effects of the widespread currency revaluations in September, including the devaluation of the Canadian dollar on September 19, have not yet become fully apparent. New trends may emerge when prices and trade patterns have become adjusted to these changes.

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The preliminary suggestions as to categories were as follows: Sections which would be the concern only of Parliament; sections which would concern Parliament and only one, two or three Provinces; sections which would affect Parliament and all the Provinces; and sections concerning entrenched provincial and minority rights.

Provision will likely be made in the amending machinery to be advised requiring that any future changes in such machinery likewise should require unanimous consent of all ten Provinces.

As well, the discussion indicated, a provision will be included permitting delegation of existing powers by Parliament to the Provinces or alternatively by one or more of the Provinces of their powers to Parliament.

Ontario Premier L.M. Frost submitted some suggestions on amending machinery, as did Nova Scotia Premier Angus L. Macdonald along similar lines but in more detail.

New Brunswick Premier J.B. McNair urged, with the support of Alberta Premier E.C. Manning, that the Conference should draft an entirely new constitution as a Canadian document. However, the majority view seemed to be that, at this Conference, attention should be limited to formulating amending machinery for the British North America Act, and associated acts, as it stands, as a statute of the United Kingdom Parliament, with all future amendments, however, to be made in Canada.

ARMED SERVICES FILM CATALOGUE: Films play "an ever increasing role" in Canada's armed forces training programme and "their contribution to modern training methods is invaluable", the Minister of National Defence, Mr. Claxton, said on January 12, in announcing release of an Armed Services film catalogue.

The catalogue lists 371 unrestricted 16 mm films drawn from Canadian, United Kingdom and United States sources. It will be distributed to units of the Active and Reserve Forces as well as to Naval Officers' Associations, Military Service Associations, Military Institutes and RCAF Associations.

ECONOMIC ACTIVITY AT HIGH LEVEL: Reflecting the high level of economic activity, the amount of cheques cashed against individual accounts in November was 6.5 per cent greater than in the corresponding month of 1948; the all-Canada total standing at \$8,540,000,000 -- the second highest monthly total in history -- as compared with \$8,022,000,000.

VOCATIONAL TRAINING AGREEMENT: The Minister of Labour, Mr. Mitchell, announced on January 11 that an Order-in-Council had been passed authorizing the federal Government to enter into an agreement with Newfoundland to provide financial assistance to Canada's tenth province for vocational training at the secondary school level.