

85,000,000-POUND CHEESE CONTRACT: The Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Gardiner, announced on January 19 that a cheese agreement has been negotiated with the United Kingdom which provides for a maximum quantity of approximately 85 million pounds at a price of 25 cents per pound, basis First Grade FAS Canadian Seaboard.

The Agreement provides for the shipment of 77 million pounds of cheese with a 10 per cent tolerance, that is, Canada will undertake to deliver a minimum of 70 million pounds and the United Kingdom will undertake to purchase up to 84,700,000 pounds.

The price of 25 cents is FAS Canadian Seaboard as compared with a price equivalent to 31 cents FOB Montreal in the 1949 Agreement. The maximum quantity of cheese to be delivered in 1950 is 35,000,000 pounds greater than that of the 1949 contract.

The Minister further announced that the Dairy Products Board has been authorized to pay a price during the year 1950 of 28 cents per pound, basis First Grade, FAS Canadian Seaboard for all cheese purchased under the terms of this Agreement; the difference between the purchase price of 28 cents at which the cheese is bought in Canada and the price of 25 cents per pound for sale to the United Kingdom will be made up from funds provided by the Government of Canada. This arrangement is for the year 1950 only and is designed to assist cheese producers in making the adjustment to the lower price level.

RECORD HIGH COAL OUTPUT: Canadian production of coal rose to an all-time high annual total in 1949, the year's output increasing 3.5 per cent over 1948, and 1.2 per cent above the previous record set in 1942. Imports showed a sharp decline of 35.4 per cent as compared with 1948.

According to preliminary figures, the all-Canada output for the calendar year 1949 amounted to 19,092,000 tons as compared with 18,450,000 in the preceding year and 18,865,000 in 1942. Imports in 1949 totalled 20,045,000 tons, sharply lower than the 1948 figure of 31,054,000 tons.

Preliminary totals for December place the month's production at 1,796,000 tons, moderately below the December 1948 total of 1,840,000 tons. Reversing the trend of the previous 11 months, imports in December rose to 1,527,000 tons from 1,282,000 a year earlier, or by 19.1 per cent.

1947 LUMBER RECORD: Canada's lumber industry had its busiest year on record in 1947 up to that time, when the gross and net values of products were the highest ever recorded, and new peaks were reached in the number of active mills, the number of employees, and the salaries and wages paid, according to the detailed report on the industry by the Bureau of Statistics.

The gross value of the products of the industry in 1947 amounted to \$402,133,000 an increase of 39.7 per cent over the 1946 value of \$287,910,000. The number of active mills reporting to the Bureau was 6,481 compared with 6,001, and their employees averaged 55,426 compared with 49,352, with salary and wage payments at \$83,360,000 compared with \$63,811,000. The net value of production, or value added by manufacture, was \$190,515,000 compared with \$129,408,000 in 1946.

ALL-TIME HIGH WAGES: Average weekly wages paid to hourly-rated wage-earners employed by the larger manufacturing establishments in Canada showed a further rise at November 1, reaching an all-time high figure of \$42.59 as compared with \$42.40 a month earlier, and \$41.16 in the corresponding week of 1948. In the heavy manufactured goods class the average at November 1 was \$46.18 as compared with \$46.35 at October 1, and \$44.67 on November 1, 1948, while in the non-durable goods division, the average stood at \$39.21 compared with \$38.68 at October 1 and \$37.76 a year earlier.

Hourly earnings at November 1 averaged 99.5 cents, also a new maximum figure, as compared with 99.3 cents at October 1, and 95.5 cents at November 1, 1948. Increases in wage-rates in some industries, accompanied by changes in the industrial distribution of the hours reported accounted for most of the increase in the heavy manufacturing industries, in which the earnings at November 1 averaged 107.9 cents compared with 107.8 cents at October 1, and 103.4 cents at November 1, 1948. In the non-durable division the hourly rate was 91.4 cents compared with 91.0 cents at October 1, and 87.6 cents a year earlier.

RECORD VEHICLE ENTRIES: Foreign vehicles entering Canada on traveller's vehicle permits rose to a new record total in 1949, increasing 9.1 per cent over the previous high reached in 1948. The greatest improvement over the preceding year was in the Maritimes and Prairie Provinces. The aggregate number of entries into Canada during the calendar year 1949 amounted to 1,990,595 as compared with 1,823,988 in the preceding year and 1,663,853 in 1946.

WHOLESALE SALES DOWN: Sales of wholesalers in November were two per cent below the dollar volume for November 1948 and three per cent lower than in October. Cumulative sales for the first 11 months of 1949 were three per cent higher in dollar volume than in the corresponding period of 1948. The general unadjusted index, on the base, average for 1935-39=100, stood at 306.7 as compared with 314.8.