

NOVEMBER IMPORTS: Value of Canada's commodity imports rose about 6% in November over the corresponding month of 1953 but the earlier declines left the cumulative total for the January-November period 7% below 1953, according to final figures on the month's imports by the Bureau. Total value for November was \$372,160,000 versus \$351,400,000 a year earlier, bringing the 11-month aggregate to \$3,756,500,000 versus \$4,044,400,000.

The volume of imports rose 6.6% in November but prices were down narrowly. In the 11-month period volume averaged 7.1% below a year earlier but prices were virtually unchanged.

Imports were higher in value from the United States in November but lower in the cumulative period and purchases from the United Kingdom were lower in both periods. Imports were down in value in the month and 11 months from the Latin America group but up from the rest of the Commonwealth, European countries and the remaining group of foreign countries.

In November there were increased values for all main commodity groups except iron and products and non-metallic minerals, the largest dollar gain occurring in agricultural and vegetable products. In the 11-month period only two groups were higher in value - agricultural and vegetable products and wood and paper. Largest decreases occurred in fibres and textiles, iron and products, and non-metallic minerals.

UNITED STATES

November imports from the United States rose to \$273,459,000 from \$244,519,000 in the corresponding month of 1953, gains being recorded in all groups except iron and products and non-metallic minerals. In the 11 months the cumulative value dropped to \$2,718,317,000 from \$2,974,468,000, decreases being common to all groups except agricultural and vegetable products and wood and paper.

General declines among the main groups reduced the value of imports from the United Kingdom in November to \$26,475,000 from \$38,857,000 a year earlier. In the 11-month period increases in the agricultural and vegetable and wood and paper groups were more than counterbalanced by declines in the remaining groups resulting in a cut in total imports to \$358,638,000 from \$415,045,000 a year ago.

Imports from the rest of the Commonwealth rose in November to \$20,256,000 from \$16,818,000 and in the 11 months to \$172,823,000 from \$161,165,000. There were larger purchases both in November and the 11 months from the America, Africa and Oceania groups but smaller imports from the Asia group.

Imports from Latin American countries as a group were down in November to \$22,178,000 from \$24,793,000 and in the 11 months to \$258,398,000 from \$267,485,000.

November imports from European countries increased to \$19,756,000 from \$19,038,000 a year earlier and in the 11 months to \$165,609,000 from \$160,998,000.

CIVIL DEFENCE STUDIES: Preliminary plans for the first large scale "tactical withdrawal" studies in Canadian cities are now underway, it was announced February 11 in a simultaneous statement released by federal authorities and by provincial and municipal Governments in Alberta and British Columbia. Cities selected for the studies are Calgary and Greater Vancouver.

The studies which will be co-operative projects of provincial, federal and municipal authorities, are designed to ascertain some of the problems that would be faced by cities such as Calgary and Greater Vancouver when evacuating larger groups of people from a threatened area prior to an enemy attack. Planning for the massive projects is not expected to be completed for several months.

Of the four basic plans required to cope with a thermonuclear attack on a city, only two will be studied at this time. The first of these plans involves the evacuation of priority classes such as hospital patients when an emergency situation first arises. The second involves the evacuation of the total population from a target area when an actual attack appears imminent. Both plans will be studied in detail by Provincial Civil Defence co-ordinators at a meeting at the Canadian Civil Defence College, Amprior, Ont.

PLANNING GROUP

Federal civil defence authorities are now employed on a study of the general principles of the two plans. Later a federal planning group will leave for Western Canada where it will work in close collaboration with provincial and municipal civil defence officers on the intricate plans required for the studies.

Among the details that must be worked out before a plan can be completed are the number and suitability of exit routes from the area to be evacuated, vehicles available, police manpower required to direct traffic and to maintain law and order, problems arising from weather conditions, and the feeding and reception of the populations to be evacuated.

Civil Defence officials noted that a number of "planned withdrawals" are being organized in United States cities in the near future and Canadian officials have been invited to observe these exercises and profit by the experience of the American authorities.

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MR. DULLES TO VISIT OTTAWA: The Department of External Affairs announced on February 14 that the Secretary of State of the United States, the Honourable John Foster Dulles, will visit Ottawa March 17 to March 19. This will be Mr. Dulles' first official visit to the Canadian Capital. Mr. Dulles will be the guest of the Governor General and will stay at Government House. Further details of his visit will be announced in due course.