

from the sale of farm products occurred in all provinces. In absolute terms, the largest gain in cash returns was registered in Saskatchewan, while on a percentage basis the greatest increase took place in Manitoba.

\$80,687,448,000 RECORD: Reflecting the high level of economic activity and advances in prices, cheques cashed against individual accounts during 1948 exceeded all previous years. Total for the year was \$80,687,448,000, according to the Bureau of Statistics, as compared with \$74,498,093,000 in the preceding year, a rise of 8.3 per cent. The country-wide total has shown advances year by year since 1938, the figure for that year amounting to \$30,924,363,000.

A sharp increase of 14.5 per cent was also shown in the amount of cheques cashed in December. The total for the month was \$7,800,091,000 as compared with \$6,811,076,000 a year earlier. All five economic areas, and all but four of the 33 clearing centres showed advances.

All five economic areas shared in the rise in 1948. Total for the Maritimes advanced from \$1,750,655,000 in 1947 to \$1,970,079,000, Quebec from \$22,919,909,000 to \$23,689,833,000, Ontario from \$30,433,876,000 to \$33,381,605,000, Prairie Provinces from \$12,853,736,000 to \$14,602,310,000, and British Columbia from \$6,539,916,000 to \$7,043,620,000.

Among the 33 clearing centres, Ottawa was the only one to record a decline in 1948, clearings for that centre falling 6.2 per cent to \$3,676,302,000. Total for Montreal rose from \$20,611,366,000 in 1947 to \$20,978,799,000, Toronto from \$20,210,585,000 to \$22,655,185,000, Winnipeg, from \$7,381,393,000 to \$8,375,791,000, and Vancouver from \$5,321,162,000 to \$5,765,370,000.

SECURITY TRANSACTIONS: Canada had a sales balance on her international security transactions in November for the first time since July, and only the fourth time in the 24 months to the end of November, according to the Bureau of Statistics.

Net sales to all countries in the month amounted to \$1,600,000, with sales at \$21,800,000 and purchases at \$20,200,000. Transactions with all countries in the first 11 months of 1948 resulted in net purchases of \$17,200,000, compared with net purchases of \$13,900,000 in the same period of 1947 and net sales of \$137,400,000 in the first 11 months of 1946.

The sales balance in November was due for the most part to an excess of \$1,500,000 in purchases by the United Kingdom over sales to that country. All other sales balances in the past seven years have resulted from net sales to residents of the United States and other foreign countries. In trade with the United States in the month the purchase balance was \$100,000. With other countries there was a purchase balance of \$200,000.

P.M. TO VISIT WASHINGTON: The Prime Minister, Mr. St. Laurent, made a statement in the House of Commons on January 27 on his proposed visit to Washington. He said:

"I hope it will be of interest to Honourable Members to learn that the President of the United States announced today that he had invited me to visit Washington on February 12, 1949, and that I had accepted his invitation.

"The United States Ambassador called on me yesterday morning to extend the invitation. I told Mr. Steinhardt I would naturally be pleased to accept President Truman's invitation.

"The President was kind enough to indicate that he would like to renew our acquaintance and to discuss the matters which are of common interest to our two countries as neighbours, and also the world situation as it affects our two countries.

"Everyone knows the friendly personal relations between the late President Roosevelt and our Prime Minister were of inestimable advantage to this continent and the world. President Truman has expressed the desire which I fully share to maintain these friendly personal relations between the leaders of the governments of our two countries. Honourable Members will recall that President Truman visited Ottawa in June 1947 at the invitation of my predecessor and that his visit was both pleasant and beneficial."

MINES BUREAU PRESS TOUR: For the first time in the history of the Bureau of Mines, the press of Canada was invited, last week, on a tour of the Bureau's laboratories where, the party was told, the main purposes was "to find out what goes on inside the skin of metals." Preceded by a press conference, the visitors, who included press gallery and local newspaper representatives, as well as free lance writers and writers for out of town mining publications, were escorted over the Bureau where they watched interesting and varied tests and processes. Reports a column and a half in length, together with pictures, were published locally, and the story was carried over News Roundup and the International Service of the C.B.C.

ARREST OF SAM CARR: Sam Carr who has been sought for three years following submission of the report of the Royal Commission on espionage, was arrested by the F.B.I. in New York on the evening of Thursday, January 27, the Canadian Press reported.

EMPLOYMENT AGAIN UP: Industrial employment and payrolls showed further small increases at December 1, in spite of seasonal contractions in manufacturing, construction and some other classes, to bring both to new high record levels. Seasonal expansion in trade and logging in Canada as a whole was the main factor contributing to the small increase.