



CANADIAN WEEKLY BULLETIN

INFORMATION DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
OTTAWA - CANADA

Vol. 4 No. 38

July 29, 1949

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WEEK'S EVENTS IN REVIEW

FOREIGN TRADE INCREASE: Total Canadian imports in May were valued at \$250,500,000, comparing with \$242,700,000 in the preceding month and \$225,100,000 in May, 1948. The cumulative total for the first five months was \$1,158,900,000 as against \$1,037,100,000 a year ago.

Domestic exports in May reached a value of \$272,900,000 as against \$237,800,000 in April. This was the best month in the year for Canadian exports, but about \$10,000,000 below the total of \$282,300,000 in May last year. Over the five months domestic exports were slightly above those of last year at \$1,169,600,000 compared with \$1,166,600,000.

Re-exports of foreign goods were valued at \$2,700,000 in May compared with \$5,200,000 last year, and over the five months fell from \$16,300,000 in 1948 to \$11,500,000 this year. Thus total foreign trade in May, domestic and foreign exports plus imports, amounted to \$526,100,000, representing an increase of 2.6 per cent over last year's total of \$512,600,000. Total value in the first five months was \$2,339,900,000 as against \$2,220,000,000, a gain of 5.4 per cent.

Canada's trade with the United Kingdom in the month realized an export surplus of \$43,400,000, an increase of \$10,000,000 over April, but below last year's May balance of \$57,800,000. The cumulative figure for the five months fell from \$192,600,000 last year to \$140,000,000 this year. Imports were up from \$113,100,000

in the first five months of 1948 to \$136,300,000 in 1949.

Canada's adverse balance with the United States amounted to \$49,100,000 in May as against \$65,100,000 in April, and \$28,700,000 in May last year. The aggregate deficit with the United States for the year-to-date was \$247,000,000 as compared with \$184,600,000 in 1948 and \$397,500,000 in 1947. Thus while Canada's balance position this year with the United States is less favourable than that of a year ago, it is still much better than in the comparable period of 1947. The chief reason for a greater deficit this year was the increase in imports, which between January and May 1948 were \$729,600,000 and between January and May 1949 were \$832,000,000.

In trade with all countries Canada had a favourable May balance of \$25,100,000 as against debit balances of \$2,400,000 in April and \$16,900,000 in March. The comparable figure for May, 1948, was \$62,400,000. Over the five months this year the total favourable balance was \$22,200,000 compared with \$145,800,000 last year.

The decrease which has taken place in Canada's favourable balance of trade has been entirely due to the increased purchases made in the United States and overseas markets, particularly in the former. Imports have increased by \$122,000,000, and, since exports have remained at almost the same level as last year, this increase is equivalent to the re-

1949 ESTIMATED CROP ACREAGES

27,500,000 ACRES IN WHEAT: The area seeded to wheat in Canada this year is estimated at 27,500,000 acres, an increase of 14 per cent over the estimated total of 24,100,000 acres sown last year, according to figures released by the Bureau of Statistics. Area under oats is slightly higher. The overall barley acreage is reduced seven per cent, while that of rye showed a sharp decline of 44 per cent.

Oat acreage is estimated at 11,300,000 compared with 11,200,000 in 1948, increased seeding being shown in all provinces but Saskatchewan, Alberta and Prince Edward Island. The barley acreage is down to 6,000,000 from 6,500,000, increases from Manitoba eastward being more than counterbalanced by declines in the other provinces. Rye acreage at 1,200,000

is off sharply from last year's record figure of 2,100,000, while flax seedings dropped 83 per cent from 1,967,000 acres to 335,000. The potato acreage is down two per cent to 499,000.

Wheat acreage in the Prairie Provinces in 1949 is estimated at 26,500,000 compared with 23,000,000 in 1948. Oat acreage this year at 7,300,000 acres is three per cent below that of a year ago, while barley acreage is down eight per cent to 5,600,000 acres. Flax seedings dropped sharply from last year's acreage of 1,900,000 to 300,000 for the current season, while rye acreage at 1,100,000 is just over half of last year's figure of nearly 2,000,000. Summerfallow acreage in 1949 at 21,000,000 is up 1,000,000.

PRELIMINARY ESTIMATES OF CROP AND SUMMERFALLOW ACREAGES

Table with 4 columns: Crop Name, 1948 Area (Acres), Per Cent of 1948, and 1949 Area (Acres). Rows include Fall Wheat, Spring Wheat, All Wheat, Oats, Barley, Fall Rye, Spring Rye, All Rye, Peas, Dry, Beans, Dry, Buckwheat, Mixed Grains, Flaxseed, Shelled Corn, Potatoes, Field Roots, Hay and Clover, Alfalfa, Fodder Corn, Sugar Beets, and Summerfallow.

ICAO APPOINTMENT: The appointment of Mr. Roland Gilbert as Chief of the Administrative Bureau of the International Civil Aviation Organization was announced on July 22 by Dr. Albert Roper, Secretary General. Mr. Gilbert is at present an Assistant Secretary in the Ministry of Civil Aviation of the United Kingdom. He will take up his new duties on August 1.

Mr. Gilbert has had a long career in the service of the United Kingdom Government in the fields of finance and general administration. During the war he was Deputy Director of Supply in the Ministry of Home Security and

since January, 1948, as Assistant Secretary and Head of Finance Air Services in the Ministry of Civil Aviation, he has been responsible for financial policy relating to the purchase, sale and leasing of aircraft and the provision of overseas facilities such as aerodromes and meteorological services.

DIRECTOR OF STANDARDS: Appointment of Roderick W. MacLean as Director of Standards was announced on July 20 by the Minister of Trade and Commerce, Mr. Howe.

THREE ANTI-SUB VESSELS: Contracts for the construction of the first three anti-submarine escort vessels for the Royal Canadian Navy have been awarded to Halifax Shipyards Limited, Halifax; Canadian Vickers Limited, Montreal, and Burrard Drydock Company, Limited, North Vancouver, B.C., it was announced on July 24 by the Minister of National Defence, Mr. Claxton.

While final details of the contracts have not yet been negotiated it is expected the vessels will cost approximately \$8,000,000 each, the announcement stated.

Commencement of a naval anti-submarine escort ship-building program was first announced by Mr. Claxton in June of this year. At that time he stated every effort would be made to advance the work without delay and that it was hoped keels for the first three vessels would be laid down by the end of the year or early in 1950.

MAJOR WAR VESSELS

The new anti-submarine escort ships will be classed as major war vessels, and as such are the first to be designed completely in Canada. Their primary purpose will be the detection and destruction of modern fast submarines. They will be the first to be built anywhere to meet the new requirements.

In function they replace the frigates and corvettes of the Second World War. Like the latter vessels, their design has been worked out so that in the event of an emergency it may be possible to produce them rapidly and in quantity.

There, the comparison ends. In speed, manoeuvrability, weapons and habitability the new ships of the R.C.N. will fulfill all the requirements of their class for modern sea warfare.

The escort vessels will have steel hulls and aluminum will be used to a certain extent in superstructures and bridges. Steam turbines driving twin screws will provide a speed considerably in excess of that of the frigate.

Accommodation will be provided for a ship's company of more than 250. The crew's sleeping accommodation will be fitted with bunks to an improved pattern and will be separate from the dining spaces, which will be arranged so that either the cafeteria self-service system or modifications of it can be employed. Provision will be made for air conditioning in certain living spaces and principal operating positions. Living accommodation will be insulated so as to ensure comfortable temperatures in all weather conditions.

Every effort will be made to avoid difficulties of production. Specifications will be simplified and standardized wherever possible to meet the requirements of North American industrial practice.

In weapons and equipment generally, careful study has been given to both Royal Navy and U.S. Navy practice and the best features of both have been selected. The net result, in the opinion of R.C.N. authorities, will be an anti-submarine vessel second to none.

HEAT-RESISTANT MATERIALS: Present-day tendencies towards the use of higher operating temperatures as in jet-propelled aircraft, and in many metallurgical processes, mean that design engineers are being faced with the problem of producing better heat-resistant materials. In the operation of jet engines, for example, temperatures are of the order of 1350°F. Higher temperatures would enable better efficiencies to be attained but materials of construction are the limiting factor.

To keep abreast of the problems in this field the National Research Council has an Associate Committee on High Temperature Metals. Members of this Committee represent research interests in the universities, the Ontario Research Foundation, and the industries concerned in this subject. The Committee meets at intervals to review research programs and to make arrangements for further studies. Work is proceeding at the University of Toronto, and in the federal Department of Mines and Resources as well as in the Ontario Research Foundation laboratories and in certain industrial plants.

CORROSION LABORATORY

Chemists in the corrosion laboratory of the National Research Council's Division of Chemistry are contributing to general knowledge of this subject by carrying on a special investigation. For some time they have been engaged on a study of the scaling of heat-resistant alloys. Their work has been directed towards finding out why some types of oxide scale, formed on alloys at high temperatures, act better than others as a protective coating for the underlying metal.

It has been found that the scale formed on alloys at high temperatures exhibits different degrees of protection at different times as the heating continues. An odd feature is that the alloys now being tested show intermediate periods of rapid oxidation, after which the scale becomes protective again.

It is hoped that a study of these data and examination of the scales will provide an adequate explanation of the reason for these variations in behaviour. The results of the investigation may have an important bearing on the selection of heat-resistant alloys for various industrial uses, the National Research Council has announced.

OATS AND BARLEY POOL: Effective August 1, 1949, oats and barley produced in the three prairie provinces will be marketed through an oats pool and a barley pool operated by the Canadian Wheat Board, it has been announced by the Minister of Trade and Commerce, Mr. Howe.

Initial payments will be made on the basis of the 1949-50 support prices announced by the federal Government on March 15, 1949, less all charges before delivery in store Fort William or Port Arthur. The 1949-50 support prices announced last March were 6 1/2 cents for oats and 90 cents for barley basis No. 1 Feed grades in store Fort William or Port Arthur.

In explaining the adjustments to be made in determining the new initial payments Mr. Howe pointed out that deductions would include an allowance of 1 1/2 cents per bushel on oats and 3 cents per bushel on barley, this to constitute a reserve against country carrying charges and pool operating expenses to the Lakehead. Mr. Howe said that total deductions under the pool system including the reserve of 1 1/2 cents for oats and 3 cents for barley would be about equivalent to deductions which have been made at country elevators under the price support policy.

MINIMUM GUARANTEED

The federal Government guarantees a minimum return to the oats and barley pools at 6 1/2 cents for oats and 90 cents for barley on the basis of No. 1 Feed grades in store Fort William or Port Arthur for the total handling of the pools.

The Canadian Wheat Board will establish related initial payments for other grades of western oats and barley and these will be announced before the end of July. These will include initial payments for the basic grades of oats and barley set forth in Section IV (a) of the Canadian Wheat Board Act. These basic grades are for oats, Grade No. 2 Canada Western for which the initial payment will be 65 cents per bushel basis in store Fort William or Port Arthur, after deduction of the allowance, and for barley, Grade No. 3 Canada Western Six-Row, for which the initial payment will be 93 cents per bushel on the same basis.

With regard to flaxseed, the Government has asked the Canadian Wheat Board to conduct a voluntary pooling operation during 1949-50. The initial payment will be \$2.50 per bushel basis No. 1 C.W. flaxseed in store Fort William or Port Arthur with appropriate prices for lower grades. The Board is already carrying substantial stocks of flaxseed from 1948-49 operations and the Government has asked the Board to give sales priority to any 1949-50 Board flax receipts. It is not known at this time whether or not an alternative flaxseed market will be provided in Winnipeg.

OCCUPATIONAL PAMPHLETS: The Minister of Labour, Mr. Mitchell, announced on July 20 publication of the first of a series of booklets on Canadian occupations.

These publications have been prepared to fill an increasing demand for specific information from Canadian youth facing the difficulties of choosing the right occupation, and from parents, teachers, employment service officers, personnel officers, and all others interested in guiding youth into the right avenues of employment, the Minister explained. They should also prove of value to union officials and workers shifting to other occupations.

The initial issues consist of "a monograph" which deals with the subject in detail and a folder which covers the subject briefly in both English and French, on the "Carpenter". This will be followed by six others on skilled trades in the construction industry.

This material, prepared by the Economics and Research Branch of the Department of Labour, contains all information necessary to show a clear picture of the occupation including entry and training requirements, history, duties, earnings, promotion possibilities, related occupations, organizations, and an analysis of trends of economic forces affecting the employment outlook of those engaged.

PROGRESS IN V. D. CONTROL: Considerable progress has been made in Canada during the past few years in combatting the venereal disease menace and the outlook "permits one to be cautiously optimistic," Dr. B.D.B. Layton, Chief of the venereal disease control division of the Department of National Health and Welfare, said on July 21.

Indicative of the success achieved through combined federal and provincial efforts to reduce the prevalence of V.D. are the comparative figures for the number of cases of all types of the disease as reported by physicians to provincial health departments.

In 1946 the total number of reported cases was 41,556. In 1947 this had dropped to 33,476 and in 1948 a further drop was recorded, 27,491 cases. The first quarter of 1949 shows 6,307 cases reported as compared to 7,303 for the same period a year ago.

PUBLIC HEALTH RESEARCH Do potatoes grown in different types of soil contain varying amounts of thiamin? What effect has diet on the retention and absorption of silicon and zinc in the human body? What quantities of usable energy can be obtained from various foods eaten alone and in combination with other foods?

These are three among the basic questions being probed by scientists at the University of Montreal; the Department of Biochemistry, McGill University; and Macdonald College in three research projects being financed by the federal Government's health grants. Announcement of federal aid has been made by the Minister of National Health and Welfare, Mr. Martin.

During the past two years, Mr. Martin said, studies have been carried out at the University of Montreal comparing the thiamin content of Irish Cobbler, Green Mountain and Katahdin potatoes obtained from experimental stations in three different localities, to determine whether or not the soil type influences the thiamin content. The potatoes will be tested at harvest time and also after storage. The research is being directed by Miss Mabel Sanderson, director of graduate studies in the Institute of Dietetics and Nutrition.

"GLASGOW'S" PROGRAM: The British cruiser, H.M.S. "Glasgow", flagship of Vice-Admiral R.V. Symonds-Tayler, C.B., D.S.C., Commander-in-Chief of the Royal Navy's America and West Indies Station, will visit seven Canadian ports during her 1949 summer cruise, it has been announced.

The program for the Canadian portion of the "Glasgow's" cruise is as follows:

Cornerbrook, Newfoundland	July 22 - 26
St. George's Bay, Nfld.	July 26 - 28
St. John's, Nfld.	July 30 - Aug. 4
Halifax (Navy Week)	Aug. 4 - 15
Murray Bay, P.Q.	Aug. 17 - 25
Quebec	Aug. 25 - Sept. 2
Montréal	Sept. 5 - 12

While the "Glasgow" is in Quebec City, Vice-Admiral Symonds-Tayler and a party of four officers will visit Ottawa for a few days, travelling in a R.C.A.F. transport aircraft.

JUNE REVENUES \$191,000,000: On July 23 the Minister of Finance, Mr. Abbott, released the regular monthly statement of the Comptroller of the Treasury covering revenues and expenditures of the Government of Canada for the month of June.

Total revenue of the Government for the month of June amounted to \$191.0 million compared with \$232.2 million for the same month last year. Total revenue receipts for the first three months of the current fiscal year amounted to \$674.0 million compared with \$701.3 million for the same period a year ago.

The Comptroller's statement also shows total expenditures for the month of June of \$240.3 million compared with \$165.5 million in June 1948. Expenditures in June this year include a charge of \$71.7 million arising out of the assumption by Canada of the Newfoundland Guaranteed Stock as provided for under

the Terms of Union between Canada and Newfoundland. Total expenditures for the first three months amounted to \$471.1 million compared with \$378.3 million for the same period last year.

Expenditures for June exceeded revenues by \$49.3 million. The budgetary surplus of the Government for the first three months of the fiscal year was \$203.0 million compared with \$323.0 million in the same period last year. In addition, there were non-budgetary expenditures, that is, outlays for loans, advances and investments amounting to \$60.7 million in the first three months of the current fiscal year compared with \$79.4 million of similar outlays in the same period a year ago.

REUNION IN CHICAGO: Canadian ex-members of the First Special Service Force will go far afield this year for their third annual reunion. The gathering will be held in Chicago, August 5 and 6.

Last year's reunion was held in Toronto and two years ago the paratroopers met in Montana where the force was trained.

A joint Canadian and United States formation, the force was organized in 1942 for the specific purpose of invading German-held Norway. Schooled in commando tactics, airborne operations and mountain warfare, the force soon became known as a corps of super specialists in the art of fighting.

It served first in Kiska and then in Italy, helping take Cassino and the famous Anzio beach-head.

RESERVE TROOPS TRAINING: Personnel of the Canadian Army Reserve Force will be trained this fall and winter at Active Force corps schools including the crack tri-service air training centre at Rivers, Man., military authorities said this week.

The extra training, much of it of an advanced and highly specialized nature, will fill in the gaps between local headquarters training and annual field training at summer schools and camps for the Reserves. Courses now announced as being "open" to them will qualify Reserves as instructors in corps subjects, for promotion to a higher rank or for trades pay in the case of men taking trades training.

CARLOADINGS: Carloadings on Canadian railways for the week ended July 16 amounted to 73,181 cars, showing a slight increase over the preceding week's total of 72,936 cars, but a drop of 4,548 cars or 5.8 per cent from the corresponding week last year.

duction in the balance of trade. Over \$100,000,000 of the increase in imports was accounted for by the United States alone; as exports to that country increased by approximately \$40,000,000, the net loss incurred in trading with the United States between January and May 1949 was \$60,000,000.

Canada's imports during May continued their upward trend. Purchases from the United States showed substantial increases over last year, while smaller gains were recorded for imports from the United Kingdom and Europe. Imports from Latin America showed a decline.

The increase in the value of imports from the United States was from \$145,000,000 in May last year to \$172,100,000 this year. This raised the United States share of total Canadian imports from 64 per cent last year to 69 per cent. During the five months imports from the United States reached \$832,000,000, 72 per cent of total, as compared with \$729,600,000, or 70 per cent, in the five months of last year.

IMPORTS FROM U.K.

Goods valued at \$29,500,000 entered Canada from the United Kingdom in May. This was approximately \$2,000,000 higher than in May last year. Comparative totals for the five months were \$136,300,000 in 1949 and \$113,100,000 in 1948.

Imports from other European countries increased moderately from \$7,200,000 in May last year to \$8,100,000 this year, raising the aggregate value from \$22,300,000 to \$35,700,000 in 1949. Canada bought more in the month from Belgium and Luxembourg, Czechoslovakia, Germany, the Netherlands, Sweden and Switzerland. Lower purchases were recorded from France, Denmark and Spain.

Among purchases from Commonwealth countries, imports from Australia were down slightly in the month, but over the five months had risen from \$7,200,000 last year to \$8,900,000 in 1949. Those from New Zealand increased during the month from \$608,000 last year to \$1,900,000 this year, while the five months total showed little change being \$4,400,000 last year and \$4,600,000 this year. Canada bought \$7,500,000 worth of goods from the British West Indies in May as against \$6,700,000 last year. The comparative totals for the January to May period were \$18,900,000 compared with \$14,000,000 last year. Increases were recorded for Trinidad and Tobago, and Jamaica, which offset declines from Barbados and British Guiana. Imports from India fell from \$7,000,000 in May of last year to \$2,500,000 this year. Ceylon, British Malaya, the Gold Coast, and Fiji all showed increases in May.

Venezuela, chiefly due to heavier purchases of petroleum, accounted for more than half (\$9,300,000) the value of imports from Latin American countries in May. There were sharp reductions in imports from Brazil, Cuba and Mexico. These movements, with an assortment of lesser gains and losses, brought down

total imports from Latin American countries in May from \$18,500,000 last year to \$16,900,000. In the five months our imports had fallen from \$87,400,000 to \$70,500,000 this year.

CIVIL AVIATION APPOINTMENT: Promotion of Charles Tindal Travers, A.F.C., to the position of Superintendent of Air Regulations of the Civil Aviation Division of the Department of Transport (Air) was announced on July 26 by the Civil Service Commission with the concurrence of the Minister of Transport, Mr. Chervier. Mr. Travers succeeds Stuart Graham, A.F.C., who was recently appointed Canada's official delegate to the Air Navigation Commission of International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).

RETAIL TRADE HIGHER: With sales of motor vehicles and lumber and building materials leading in size of gains, retail trading during May continued the upward trend shown in the first four months this year.

Total volume of retail sales in the month amounted to \$654,000,000 as compared with \$615,000,000 in May last year, a gain of 6.3 per cent, according to the monthly estimate by the Bureau of Statistics. The May gain compares with eight per cent for the first four months, the smaller increase in the month being partly attributable, the Bureau's report says, to the month having only four Saturdays as against five in 1948.

Sales in the first five months totalled \$2,869,530,000 as compared with \$2,670,890,000 last year, a cumulative gain of 7.4 per cent.

DEPARTMENT STORE SALES UP: Department store sales rose three per cent during the week ending July 16 over the corresponding week last year, according to preliminary figures released by the Bureau of Statistics. All regions of the country participated in the rise except Manitoba. Sales in the Maritime Provinces advanced 14 per cent, followed by a rise in Alberta of 10 per cent, Saskatchewan nine per cent, British Columbia six per cent, Ontario two per cent, and Quebec one per cent. Sales in Manitoba declined 11 per cent.

SWEDISH SCHOLARSHIP: The Department of External Affairs announced on July 26 that the Swedish Government has offered a scholarship to be awarded to a Canadian citizen for study at a recognized Swedish university. Men and women with an appropriate university degree are eligible.

The scholarship is intended to run between September 1, 1949, and May 31, 1950. The total value of the scholarship is \$1277. Out of this amount, the sum of \$444 is to be used to cover travelling expenses to and from Sweden.