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In This Issue

COVER SUBJECT—Southampton Docks, showing R.M.S. Queen Mary alongside the terminal building placed in service this year. A large percentage of Great Britain's exports and imports pass through Southampton. British exports in October amounted to £235·2 million, which was £27 million more than in the preceding month. Imports were valued at £362·6 million, however, an increase of £25 million over the corresponding figure for September. The excess of imports over exports for the first ten months of 1951 was £1,042 million.

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Malaya Offers Good Market for Canadian Concentrated Milk

Powdered, evaporated and condensed milk are important items in Canadian exports to Malaya and Singapore—While shipments declined in 1950 to $261,641 due to devaluation and import control, from over $1·7 million in 1948 and 1949, exports totalled $676,966 in first half of 1951—Continued growth in the trade indicated.

By D. S. Armstrong, Canadian Government Trade Commissioner.

SINGAPORE.—One of the most important items in Canadian export trade with Malaya and Singapore is concentrated milk—powdered, evaporated, and condensed. The annual value of Canada's exports of these products was over $1,700,000 in 1948 and 1949, but due to devaluation and import control, 1950 exports dropped to $261,641. For the first half of 1951, concentrated milk exports to Malaya totalled $676,966 and there are signs that the trade may continue to grow in the future.

Fresh milk production is negligible in Malaya and Singapore and therefore the area is almost entirely dependent on imports. Recognizing the nutritive value of concentrated milk, its importance in the diet of the population, and the necessity of unrestricted supplies, the control authorities allow free imports of condensed and powdered milk into Malaya. Total requirements have grown from 1,780,000 cases in 1947 to 2,500,000 cases in 1950. During January to September, 1951, imports totalled 2,326,683 cases, indicating that consumption is still increasing and may reach 3 million cases this year at an estimated value of $24,000,000. The main sources of supply in order of importance are Australia, the Netherlands, Denmark, Canada, and the United States.

Condensed Milk in Greatest Demand

Sweetened condensed milk constitutes 90 to 95 per cent of all concentrated milk imports. It is used primarily in the feeding of infants and is popular because of the ease with which formulas can be prepared and because of the sugar content—sugar being rationed in Malaya. The principal source of supply is Australia closely followed by the Netherlands. These two countries contribute an average of 80 per cent of all condensed milk imports. Canada's exports to Malaya have never been particularly high except in 1949 when shipments reached 100,000 cases. This figure fell to 5,000 in 1950 but it has risen to 27,830 cases during the first 9 months of 1951.

Malayan Imports of Condensed Milk

	1947	1948	1949 (In cases)	1950	Jan.-Sept. 1951
Australia	667,375	743,664	767,066	973,520	830,309
Netherlands	212,570	149,999	204,330	898,779	801,305
Denmark	52,398	21,004	39,198	181,679	319,496
United States	252,783	605,233	694,951	....	125,052
United Kingdom	20	232	....	91,675	59,135
New Zealand	24,057	27,699	114,472	96,807	40,518
CANADA	4,900	60,510	100,548	5,000	27,830
Others	....	29,370	17,520	....	2,492
Total	1,214,103	1,637,711	1,938,085	2,247,466	2,206,137

Imports of evaporated milk average about 150,000 cases per year with the Netherlands leading as a source of supply although in 1948 Canada occupied first place in this respect. Canada was the second largest source of supply in 1949 and 1950. Malayan trade returns indicate that during the first nine months of this year imports from Canada fell to 1,350 cases but this does not take into consideration some 18,000 cases which show in Canadian export statistics as having left Canada for Malaya in August.

Malayan Imports of Evaporated Milk

	1947	1948	1949 (In cases)	1950	Jan.-Sept. 1951
Netherlands	81,272	14,843	48,056	129,792	54,625
Australia	24,726	847	25,133	4,966	2,700
CANADA	2,327	68,212	37,410	22,450	1,350
Denmark	1,400	550	575	16,673	640
United Kingdom	....	....	....	6,152	340
United States	317,783	29,541	29,107	2,500	6
Others	19,049	14,150	2	....	....
Total	446,557	128,143	140,283	182,533	59,661

There are several difficulties in connection with the sale of evaporated milk. Firstly, the standard content must be 31 per cent milk solids and 9 per cent butter fat as compared with the Canadian minimum standard of 25·5 per cent milk solids and 7·8 per cent butter fat. (These Malayan standards apply also to condensed milk). Secondly, direct imports of evaported milk are not allowed, and merchants can only obtain supplies via Hong Kong, payment being made by using the free exchange market. The free rate of exchange is presently about 20 per cent higher than the official rate, making Canadian evaporated milk non-competitive with products of other countries.

Malayan demand for powdered milk varies with availability and price of condensed milk together with consumer preference. Since the war imports have ranged between 62,000 cases and 123,000 cases per year. About 80 per cent of powedred milk consumption is "whole," or "full cream" milk. The demand for powdered skim milk is limited mainly to margarine makers, the production of reconstituted milk and to ice cream manufacturers who are now turning to special mixes. However, between 1947 and 1949 a large quantity of vitaminized skim milk powder was supplied by the United States under a special aid program.

Malayan Imports of Powdered Milk

	1947	1948	1949 (In cases)	1950	Jan.-Sept. 1951
Australia	24,784	26,805	35,429	41,983	32,807
CANADA	6,628	14,739	37,934	9,779	12,101
United Kingdom	228	88	301	562	5,819
Denmark	....	115	....	224	4,518
New Zealand	5,041	25,865	3,170	5,003	4,171
United States	85,583	45,309	30,419	4,690	772
Netherlands	205	67	16	128	697
Others	471	3,000	63	....	....
Total	122,940	115,988	107,332	62,369	60,885

Australia has traditionally been the chief source of supply of whole milk powder—Malayan imports from there ranging between 24,000 and 42,000 cases per year. Canada is next in importance with about half the quantity of Australian shipments. United States and New Zealand also participated to a lesser, but still important degree. Since devaluation Canadian prices have been far from competitive, and together with a temporary prohibition on direct imports, the inevitable result has been a drop in shipments as illustrated by the following statistics of Malayan imports from Canada: 1949—37,935 cases; 1950—9,780 cases; January-September, 1951—12,100 cases. However, Australian prices have increased as much as 40 per cent recently and may soon reach the Canadian level.

Chinese and Malays Hold Bulk of Purchasing Power

The consuming population in Malaya is predominantly Chinese and Malayan and, to a lesser extent, Indian. Europeans and Eurasians are not a large factor in the consumption of milk products. The Chinese are particularly "brand conscious" and they will pay a premium for a brand of concentrated milk that is well advertised and has a history. In picking brand names, labels and colours, care must be taken to cater to local tastes. In addition, it is helpful, but only necessary in the case of skim milk powder, if instructions are printed in Chinese, Malay and Tamil as well as English.

The methods and channels of distribution are more or less standardized in Malaya. Overseas manufacturers or exporters appoint agent-importers (also known as traders, general merchants, importers and exporters) on an exclusive basis. The local firm organizes a chain of dealers or wholesalers known locally as a "kongsie". Members of the kongsie agree to handle a particular brand of concentrated milk but not necessarily on an exclusive basis; additionally, it is common for wholesalers to buy from one another. In the concentrated milk trade, the agent-importer carries stocks at strategic points (usually Singapore, Kuala Lumpur and Ipoh) and supplies his kongsie from these stocks. Agent-importers are usually large British, Dutch, American or Chinese firms; dealers are invariably Chinese. Price control on concentrated milk products does not exist in Malaya but in an effort to combat rising costs of living and profiteering from shortages, the government publishes fair prices as submitted by agents weekly in the press to guide the public and, in effect, blacklist unscrupulous sellers.

Office Machinery and Equipment Exposition to be Held in San Francisco

The 1952 Office Machinery and Equipment Exposition, sponsored by the National Office Management Association, 132 W. Chelton Avenue, Philadelphia 44, Pennsylvania, will be held in the Civic Auditorium, in San Francisco on May 19, 20 and 21, 1952.

American Society of Tool Engineers to Hold Exposition

The Ninth Biennial ASTE Industrial Exposition will take place March 17-21, 1952, at the Chicago Amphitheatre. This exposition is sponsored and operated by the American Society of Tool Engineers, 10,700 Puritan Avenue, Detroit 21, Michigan. This Society, established in 1932, is one of the largest American trade associations, with a current membership of 18,000.

Foreign exhibitors are invited to participate if they have machines, tools, accessories, or allied equipment which may be of interest to industry. Foreign visitors are also invited.

The exposition should be of special interest to representatives of business firms. It is not open to the public.

Industry in Colombia Continued To Progress Steadily Last Year

Most manufacturers operating at capacity, aided by protective tariffs and import controls—Shortage of raw materials being felt.

By W. Ross Van, Assistant Canadian Government Trade Commissioner.

(One peso equals $0·5641 Canadian.)

BOGOTA.—Industry in Colombia has continued to progress steadily. Aided by protective tariffs and import controls, most manufacturers are operating at capacity and earning good profits. Among the principal industries at the present time which are in a position to supply the country's demands are beer, textiles, cement, shoes and other leather goods, cigars, cigarettes, candy and biscuits. However, industries are beginning to feel the world shortage of raw materials, especially the rayon industry, which will undoubtedly curtail proposed expansion and may even reduce the present rate of production.

Increased interest is being taken in the manufacturing under licence of pharmaceutical products, principally owing to the fact that finished pharmaceuticals are subject to much increased import duties under the new customs tariff. One large Canadian pharmaceutical firm has already established a branch plant in Bogotá which will soon be in production. The rubber tire industry is expanding steadily and fills the local demand for most common tire sizes. Local production has increased to an annual rate of about 185,000 tires with the corresponding tube sizes, which is a 25 per cent increase over 1949.

Attempts are being made to increase the export of cement, and shipments during the year have been made to the United States, Canada and to some neighbouring republics.

Construction has continued to increase during the year, regardless of the progressively higher costs of construction material.

Increased Production of Paints Encouraged

The annual consumption of paints is approximately 1½ million U.S. gallons, of which one-third is produced locally. Two firms have a combined output of about 400,000 U.S. gallons per year, while the remaining 100,000 gallons of local production come from three or four small factories. The government is encouraging the establishment and expansion of paint factories and increased production. The 1950 customs tariff considerably increases the duty on imported paints with a levy of 50 centavos per gross kilo plus 20 per cent ad valorem, whereas the old tariff charged a flat rate of 12 centavos per kilo.

During the year, a special quota of $500,000 was authorized to established importers and distributors. These quotas for dollars at the official rate of exchange were given pro-rata, based on the record of importations during the three previous years. Representatives of factories who had not previously imported were given a flat US$2,000 quota.

The main source of imports was the United States, although small quantities were also secured from Great Britain and Canada.

There was no notable increase in production over that of 1949. The quality of the present output is poor, and little apparent effort is being made towards improvement. Colombia does not make any varnishes, lacquers or specialized types of paints, although it does produce automobile paints.

There are only two rayon pulp consumers in Colombia up to the present with estimated pulp consumption during 1950 of 2,000 tons and 1,100 tons respectively. A great deal of difficulty was experienced in securing sufficient raw material during the latter part of the year due to the acute world shortage of rayon pulp. This shortage seriously threatens to curtail Colombian viscose yarn production during 1951.

Acetate Rayon Yarns to be Produced

Work is well advanced on a new plant in Cali in Southwestern Colombia to produce acetate rayon yarns. This new industry may commence production at the end of 1951, which will make a third important Colombian consumer of rayon pulp.

The principal suppliers of rayon pulp to Colombia have been Canada and Sweden, with Canada supplying approximately two-thirds of the local requirements.

Organizational work is proceeding on the government project of constructing an integrated iron and steel industry at Paz de Río. Dollar expenditures for foreign equipment and services have been underwritten to a total of $25 million in the form of an open credit offered by a private French bank. At the end of the year, contracts were being prepared to take up $20·5 million of this credit in the form of financing purchases of steel mill furnaces and equipment from various French firms. A further open credit for $12 million has been offered by German private interests, but by the end of 1950, there were no apparent plans to take up any of this credit. The balance of the financing would be largely to cover local construction and operating expenses in pesos which will be financed by the government's central bank, the Banco de la República. Completion of this 100,000-ton-a-year iron and steel plant has been scheduled for 1953, but informed sources are of the opinion that this date is too optimistic.

The production of plastic manufactures continues to increase. It is estimated that 1950 production exceeded that of the previous year by 30 per cent. Factories are all from medium- to large-scale, located in Barranquilla, Bogotá, Cali and Medellín. Both compression machinery, using phenol and urea formaldehyde, and injection machinery, using polystyrene, are employed. All raw materials are imported, principally from the United States with smaller supplies from the United Kingdom and Canada.

Although imports of finished articles are permitted from time to time, they are discouraged by high duties. Soft plastic yardage is imported. Hard plastic sheets are imported, and due to limited demand for this commodity, together with the high cost of machinery, no steps are likely to be taken to manufacture locally. There is room for continued increase in production and a general widening of the range of goods produced, all dependent on the availability of raw material.

The Banco de la República gives the gold and silver production figures for the year as follows:

	Gold Production Troy oz.
1949	359,475
1950	379,412
	Silver Production Troy oz.
1949	106,678
1950	116,104

Gold and silver mining in Colombia are carried out principally by Canadian, American and British groups. The American and Canadian groups have been operating an average of 18 years, while the smallest, which is British, is the oldest of the three, having been opened some 98 years ago. The combined output of these three groups is 73 per cent of the total production. The remaining 27 per cent comes from many small mines.

All gold production must be turned in to the central bank, known as the Banco de la República. The export of gold, most of which goes to the United States, accounts for no more than approximately 4 per cent of Colombia's dollar receipts.

Petroleum Production in Colombia

	1949	1950
	(barrels)	
Production (Year)	29,722,406	34,059,017
Production (daily average)	81,431	93,312
Refinery throughout	9,259,449	9,563,587
Crude exports	24,166,861	28,268,272
Pipeline runs	27,480,187	30,750,126

Notable occurrences in the petroleum industry in 1950 were: modified petroleum legislation intended to foment exploration, to encourage investment of more venture capital, and to counteract foreign firms' increasing lack of interest in Colombian petroleum prospects; and the formation of a Colombian organization charged with the development and promotion of the De Mares concession and refinery.

Wildcat drilling accounted for two producing wells during 1950, while exploitation drilling resulted in 94 producers. The general lack of exploration activity noted in 1949 has continued.

No strikes were reported, and labour relations improved over 1949. Labour conditions are better, due to an increase in social benefits made available to the workers and salaried personnel.

Rather serious distribution difficulties from the refinery on the Magdalena River to the interior area around Bogotá were encountered on account of frequent transportation interruptions and an increased rate of consumption of gasoline, fuel oil, etc., that had been considerably underestimated a few years ago. Some action is being taken to rectify the situation by the construction of a gasoline-fuel oil pipeline from the Magdalena up to the Bogotá plateau, involving a climb of almost 9,000 feet. Until this pipeline is completed, the present chronic shortage of petroleum fuels will continue in the central part of the country, with its results of black marketing, watering of gasoline, etc.

TRANSPORTATION

The Transportation and Communications Division is in a position to furnish information on water, rail, air and road transport services to and from Canada. Shippers having any transportation problems are invited to use the facilities of this Division.

A list of the principal Canadian trade routes and the various steamship companies maintaining services thereon has been compiled and may be obtained on request.

Inquiries for this list or other information concerning international transportation services should be addressed to the Director, Transportation and Communications Division, Department of Trade and Commerce, Ottawa.

Queensland Agricultural Scheme Will Provide More Food for Great Britain

Queensland-British Food Corporation established in 1948 for production, processing and marketing of foodstuffs and supply thereof to the United Kingdom—Present aim is consolidation, improvement of yields and development of cattle and hog breeding.

By Roy W. Blake, Agricultural Secretary for Canada.

MELBOURNE.—Efforts to provide more food for Great Britain have been made during the past three years by a British-Australian corporation that has been engaged in large-scale operations in the State of Queensland. The British Overseas Food Corporation, which was identified with the East African ground-nut scheme, accepted the invitation of the Queensland Government to investigate the possibilities of producing peanuts in that state. The delegation sent out in January, 1948, found no suitable territory for the cultivation of peanuts other than areas that required substantial clearing. This the corporation was unwilling to undertake.

The delegation was also interested, however, in the production of fodder grains, which could be used for meat and fat production. The open downs in central West Queensland appeared most suitable for oilseed crops and for the growing of grain sorghum, which could be used for hog production in Queensland and for export to the United Kingdom. Following consultations with the state government, an agreement was signed on February 25, 1948, and the Queensland-British Food Corporation was established for the production, processing and marketing of foodstuffs and the supply thereof to the United Kingdom. It was arranged that the Queensland Government should supply one-quarter of the capital required up to a limit of £A625,000, and would acquire suitable land and lease it to the new authority.

Sorghum Planned as Main Crop for First Few Years

The target for crops was set at 250,000 acres. Cultivation was to be on a large scale, using the most scientific methods of agriculture. For the first few years, it was planned that sorghum would be the main crop and would be used in conjunction with green feed and other protein rations for fattening hogs in Central Queensland, with surplus grain production going to the United Kingdom. Sunflower would also be grown for export to Great Britain.

The first property acquired for the corporation comprised an area of 92,596 acres, fenced and improved for pastoral purposes; three other properties of 118,098 acres, 52,208 acres and 51,372 acres each were subsequently purchased. All these properties were obtained by negotiations prior to resumption at prices, including plant and improvements, well below £1 per acre.

Ploughing was let out on contract until the corporation was able to take delivery of its own tractors. In the first year a total of 31,405 acres was ploughed but due to an exceptionally dry summer, one of the driest in sixty years for that region, seeding could not commence until sufficient rain fell in mid-January. Seeding operations were handled by the corporation, using its own plant and men, with two ten-hour shifts a day, the two-hour break between shifts being used for servicing equipment. A total of 29,286 acres was sown to grain sorghums, the balance being put into experimental crops and grasses.

Frost Disastrous to First Crop

The crop developed satisfactorily, and an estimated 1,000,000-bushel output was predicted. However, a succession of extremely heavy frosts occurred, with disastrous results to the crop. Development was checked and the frosts caused serious lodging. The final yield amounted to about 316,000 bushels of only fair to poor quality grain. Cattle were turned into the lodged crops and cleaned up all the grain left on the ground, making good gains, which helped to compensate for the reduced yield of grain. Of the total crop of about 7,000 tons, 5,958 tons were exported, the balance being retained for use as seed and hog feed, and as a drought reserve.

In addition, about 100 acres were sown to sunflower and the results justified the opinion that this crop would be of value to provide vegetable protein for hogs and also as a rotation crop with grain sorghum. Despite damage from frost and flooding, the crop was of good quality and yielded about 400 lbs. per acre.

The area sown to sorghum during the next season was increased to 66,432 acres. The experimental program was expanded with spacing, rate of seeding and variety trials of sorghum, sunflower, soybeans and grasses being carried out. The second crop did not suffer from frost, but persistent and unseasonally heavy rains during the autumn and winter hampered harvest operations and unduly prolonged the normal period of harvest.

After the crop had been harvested and bagged, the trucks could not get onto the land and, by the time the ground was dry enough to bear them, many of the bags had rotted and burst open when lifted. Once the grain had been stored in the sheds, another hazard appeared in the form of a plague of mice; literally millions of mice swarmed over the grain causing serious losses. However, despite these difficulties, the final yield from the second harvest, was just over 1·2 million bushels of sorghum and 30,000 bushels of sunflowerseed.

The 1950-51 season brought new difficulties no less serious. This year it was drought. Most of the grain harvested did not receive rain from the time of planting, resulting in a disappointing crop of 439,990 bushels from about 50,000 acres. Several thousand acres did not germinate at all. Those which did, grew surprisingly well considering that they received no rain after germination. One good feature of the crop was its high quality. The average yield was only 8·8 bushels to the acre, which compares with an anticipated average of more than 25 bushels from Queensland farmers' crops and 100 bushels to the acre grown on Darling Downs.

Three Experimental Piggeries Established

While the final objective of the corporation was the production of hogs for export to Britain, it was decided to proceed cautiously, concentrating on the production of grain sorghum for the first few years. To date, three experimental piggeries have been established in selected localities in order to test conditions and costs, methods of feeding, most suitable breeds, etc.

Piggeries are located on sites with an abundant water supply where irrigated crops and pastures can be grown. Two piggeries are run on semi-intensive lines where hogs get most of their feed from a dry meal ration containing 80 per cent sorghum plus protein and mineral supplements. The range piggery venture is an attempt to lower further the labour and capital cost by running hogs in much larger paddocks on sorghum stubbles and on sorghum and other crops grown for them. They are hand-fed only during hard periods of the winter, when sufficient paddock feed is not available. No permanent farrowing pens are erected but light shelters are provided for sows farrowing. So far, this experiment is proving successful despite a very cold, dry winter. It is expected that each piggery will turn out some 2,000 baconers a year when fully operating.

To utilize the non-arable land acquired with the properties and to use the stubble after harvesting, the corporation carries on a beef cattle enterprise, divided between breeding and feeding.

During the first two years of operations, store cattle were bought in the open market. They were grazed in the summer on natural pastures and run on the sorghum stubble in the winter. About 14,000 head of store cattle are carried at present, which is lower than normal owing to the hard weather conditions in Queensland this year. Since starting the project in June, 1949, the corporation has purchased 27,276 stores and sold 13,406 finished cattle. Store cattle take about 18 months to fatten under normal conditions. The sorghum stubble is proving a particularly good asset during the current dry season and the corporation was able to turn off their fat cattle earlier than other cattlemen in the surrounding district.

Cattle Breeding Begun This Year

The breeding enterprise got under way at the beginning of 1951 on a property of some 360 square miles. It is designed to breed cattle for fattening on the grazing areas, reducing the number of stores purchased and improving quality. About 7,500 head are being carried at present with a probable turnoff of some 1,500 to 2,000 store cattle annually; it is hoped to increase this number as the property is improved.

Properties acquired to date by the corporation are all within easy reach of the railways. Construction is proceeding as quickly as labour and materials will allow, and many buildings, fences, cattle dips, yards and roads have been completed. A large central store for seed, oil, grease and spare parts has been completed to facilitate control and the keeping of records. The corporation realizes the importance of providing comfortable accommodation and amenities for its workmen, in order to attract good types of men with their families and is trying to make life as comfortable as possible in this isolated area.

With an area of over 700,000 acres, the corporation is, for the next few years, concentrating on consolidation rather than expansion. It will try to improve yields and develop the breeding of cattle and hogs. Most of the crop failures experienced during the past three seasons can be traced to a series of unfortunate weather conditions, but given better conditions, the corporation should be able to put the scheme on a sound basis and achieve its object of providing more food for Great Britain. With neighbouring property owners adopting similar methods, the production of meat in Queensland should be considerably increased and a more stable economy established.

Tobago Dam Completed

Port of Spain, October 25, 1951.—(FTS)—The $2 million Hillsborough Dam which is to give the Island of Tobago an adequate water supply was completed in August. It is expected that the dam will be in use early in 1952.

Yield of Most Chilean Agricultural Products Declined This Year

An estimated 200,000 tons of wheat must be imported to cover the deficit—Rice production poor in south and 20,000 tons will be imported—Potato crop suffered severely from blight.

By M. R. M. Dale, Commercial Secretary for Canada.

SANTIAGO.—Most agricultural products showed a definite drop in yield during the first six months of 1951, two of the most important being beans and lentils which are staple foods in Chile. Taking the average production per head of population only in the case of the potato yield is an increase seen in terms of domestic consumption. Unfortunately this progressive increase has been interrupted by the failure of this year's harvest. The Development Corporation has been giving special consideration to assistance for Chilean agriculture, particularly with regard to mechanization, in order to offset the loss of labour resultant from the pull of industry. Various agreements have been entered into with the United States and FAO for the furthering of agricultural techniques and the extension of the frontier.

Chilean Average Annual Agricultural Production

(Thousands of Metric Tons)

	1936-40	1941-45	1946-50
Average annual population	4,677·0	5,216·0	5,616·0
Wheat	859·0	867·0	960·0
Maize	63·4	66·1	65·7
Barley	109·7	75·1	85·1
Oats	111·3	85·6	71·2
Beans	77·1	72·6	69·7
Lentils	26·5	13·6	15·1
Chickpeas	4·8	4·0	4·4
Rye	7·7	5·8	4·4
Peas	20·5	20·1	14·2
Potatoes	425·9	463·9	549·7

Cereal Harvests Generally Normal

The cereal harvest, especially wheat, in most parts of the north of the country terminated in February, with the exception of certain districts where it was delayed by shortage of labour. The yields obtained were, in general, normal and the quality more or less satisfactory. In the Central Zone the wheat harvest was completed in March. In the irrigated zones, both yield and quality were good, but in districts without irrigation, the yield was not so good.

It is estimated that 200,000 tons of wheat must be imported to cover the deficit, although latest estimates show an estimated production of 972,000 metric tons which is 150,000 more than last year on an area planted of 823,000 hectares, which is 10,000 hectares less than last year.

The harvest of barley in the Central Zone has been more or less normal. In the southern zones unseasonal rains delayed the harvest, the yield being variable, as also the quality, due to the excessive humidity. In the far south, weather conditions delayed thrashing and the yields are reported as 30 per cent less than the previous year.

Low Rice Production Necessitates Imports

The production of rice was reported as satisfactory in the Province of Santiago, but southward from this province the production progressively decreased as the lack of seasonal hot weather prevented the ripening of the grain. Early reports, which were at the time thought to be exaggerated, reported losses through climatic causes of from 60 to 80 per cent. The area sown is given as 3,400 hectares less than the previous year, and it is claimed that this is because farmers have been devoting their attention to more remunerative crops. Although the local price, which is a controlled one, has been increased by just over 25 per cent, producers still claim that the business is unremunerative. As a result of these difficult factors, Chile, which a few years ago had built up an interesting export business in rice, is now reduced to importing, to the extent of some 20,000 tons, to be purchased probably from Italy and Ecuador. Statistics show that the area sown in the year 1945 was just over double that of the present year.

The production of maize at 85,100 tons is 25,000 tons more than the previous year on an increased area sown of about 2,300 hectares. In the north, production was somewhat below normal due to irregularity and scarcity of water supplies on irrigated lands.

The production of lentils has been very satisfactory in the northern zone and normal in others, showing an increased production of 5,300 tons on an increased planted area of 3,400 hectares.

Potato Crop Suffered Severely from Blight

The potato, which is an exceptionally important crop to Chile, has suffered severe loss through the potato blight. Losses in the central and near southern zones were slight as it was not "tizón" as first reported, which played such havoc in the far south, especially in the Province of Chiloé where the damage is estimated at as much as 70 per cent, while in other provinces of the zone losses were thought to be 30 and 40 per cent. It has, however been necessary to import large quantities of potatoes from Argentina for consumption. In regard to imports for seeding it is interesting to note that Canada has participated. The latest estimate of the production is 385,000 tons, which is 75,000 tons less than last year on a slightly larger area sown.

The production of oats at 87,500 tons is 23,400 tons higher than last year on an increased area sown of 10,000 hectares.

The production of beans in general was delayed by lack of warm weather, and although the results obtained are only regarded as fair, the production is only 3,000 tons less than last year on a slightly reduced area sown.

According to the latest estimates, flax and hemp will give improved yields this year, but on the other hand, sunflower seed on a planted area 10 per cent greater than last year is likely to show a slightly reduced yield.

The production of tobacco on a slightly greater planted area is anticipated to show about the same yield as last year. In the extreme north of the country, experiments have been made with planting of varieties of cotton with good results. The sugar cane cultivated in the same district gave a slightly higher yield than last year.

The production of alfalfa in the northern valleys has been affected by lack of rain and, in general, a shortage of pasture for animals is seen. In irrigated zones, especially in the central part of the country, pasture in general has been satisfactory and it is anticipated that cattle will enter the winter season in good condition.

In the valleys of the north, production of fruit in general has been abundant, especially pears, quices, figs and walnuts. On the other hand, production of almonds and peaches has been less than the previous year.

Chermoyas, although attacked to a certain degree by pest, are in abundant supply. The production of avocadoes and olives has been very abundant and of good quality. Oranges and lemons also promise a good crop.

In the apple orchards to the south, the yield has been normal in some districts, but in others, the rains and winds during the budding season encouraged fungus and pest and have caused a serious reduction in the yield, as well as affecting the quality.

In the Northern Zone, the general state of the vines has been satisfactory with a production somewhat above normal. This is also the case in the Central Zone, where both wine and table grapes were of good quality. To the south of the Province of Santiago, the quality progressively deteriorated due to lack of summer heat, which caused a reduction in the saccharine grade of the grapes and also a reduction in the yield.

The milk production for 1950 was 643·5 million litres, showing an average production of 5½ litres daily per animal in the Province of Santiago, whereas in the south of Chile the maximum production was 3 litres. From the beginning of May, transit permits for milk had to be authorized by the General Supplies Control Department which controlled the pasteurization of milk, and insisted on the registration, with full particulars of all pasteurization plants. In accordance with a development plan for the industry, long term loans are being granted by the Institute of Agricultural Economy, up to a total of Ch.$3·5 million for dairy farm improvements and construction.

United States Trade with ERP Countries Increased

Washington, November 1, 1951.—(FTS)—United States imports from the European Recovery Program countries have doubled in value, and United States exports to the area have increased more than 50 per cent since the beginning of Korean hostilities, the Office of International Trade, United States Department of Commerce, reported today.

Imports increased from $483 million in January-June, 1950, to $777·6 million in the succeeding half-year, and to $1,025·9 million in the first half of 1951. Exports in the same half-year periods rose from $1,539·4 million to $1,626·3 million and then to $2,374·5 million.

The increase in imports was due principally to large purchases of iron and steel products, textile manufactures, chemicals, and other industrial goods, now being produced in expanding quantities in the ERP countries. The larger part of the rise in the value of imports is accounted for by an increase in trade volume, though a rise in the price level was a contributing influence.

DATA FOR EXPORTERS COMPILED

Information, of particular interest to Canadian exporters, concerning shipping documents and customs regulations of foreign countries, is being compiled by the International Trade Relations Division. Countries concerning which such information is now available in a revised form are: Austria, Belgium, Belgian Congo, Cuba, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Finland, France, Western Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, Iceland, Indonesia, Israel, Italy, Mexico, Netherlands, Netherlands Antilles, Nicaragua, Norway, Panama, Peru, Surinam (Netherlands Guiana), Sweden, Switzerland and Venezuela. Data on other countries will be made available from time to time.

Colombian Sea, Rail and Air Services Improved During the Past Year

New berths and warehouses completed at port of Buenaventura—Flota Mercante Grancolombiana operating monthly direct service to Canada—Locomotives purchased for railways—Air services extended—Three-year plan of highway construction and maintenance proposed.

By W. Ross Van, Assistant Canadian Government Trade Commissioner.

(One peso equals $0·5641 Canadian.)

BOGOTA.—During 1950, four new berths and three new warehouses were completed at the Pacific Coast port of Buenaventura in Colombia. No work was done on the two other principal seaports, Barranquilla and Cartagena, on the Caribbean. In April, a decree was issued restricting shipments through Buenaventura in order to divert enough cargo to Barranquilla and Cartagena to place them on a paying basis and to reduce cargo congestion at Buenaventura.

In April a direct service on a monthly basis was opened by the Flota Mercante Grancolombiana between Colombian and Canadian ports, while Saguenay Terminals Limited and Swedish-American Line continued to offer a similar service. From April to December, 1950, official figures show 18,426 tons carried by the Flota Mercante Grancolombiana from Canada to Colombian Caribbean ports, and 7,870 tons for Venezuelan ports. Total direct cargo for Canada from Colombia during the same period was 2,403 tons. During the winter months, service was being continued from Halifax and Saint John. The first year's experience of this new service to Canada was so successful for the Flota that a decision was made at the end of the year to double the regular monthly service in 1951, as well as adding an occasional service from Eastern Canada to Pacific Coast ports of Colombia and Ecuador.

Previous plans for the extension of railways were halted in 1950 as a result of the Currie report, which recommended a closer integration of rail transport with other forms of surface transportation. Mr. Currie suggested the extension of the main rail line from Bogotá further down the river to connect with the head of year-round navigation on the Magdalena River. This line would also make it possible for shipments to be made from Buenaventura to Bogotá via Medellin, thus avoiding transshipments by the more roundabout route. At the present time, the total railway mileage in Colombia is 2,979 kilometers, of which 2,345 kilometers belong to the National Railways.

Locomotives Purchased for Railways

Principal equipment purchases made during the year were 29 locomotives and 2 Diesel-electric locomotives. Of these, twenty-six were for the National Railways and five for the Ferrocarriles de Antioquia; twenty-six of the steam locomotives were secured from Belgium and three from Germany; the two Diesel locomotives were imported from Austria. In addition, the Ferrocarriles de Antioquia bought 74 units of rolling stock, all from Austria, consisting of tank cars, gondolas, passenger and dining cars. The National Railways experienced severe financial losses, as nearly all of their lines were out of order at various times during the year due to bad weather conditions. During 1951, the National Railways hope to import some 200 cars of rolling stock, mostly box-cars, gondolas and livestock cars. They have already purchased five Diesel locomotives from the United States for use on the Pacific run, but it is not believed that these will be delivered for at least one year.

Highway construction during the year was practically abandoned, and what money was available was used for maintenance. The continuous rains caused innumerable landslides and washouts. Towards the end of the year, the Economic Development Committee, on the recommendation of the World Bank, drew up a plan for the construction and maintenance of roads, calling for an expenditure of Ps.90 million over a three-year period beginning in early 1951.

Of importance to trucking in 1950 was the freeing of highways from control. Formerly, routes were given to specific carriers. Due to increased transportation difficulties, all carriers were given freedom of route in order to expedite transportation of goods.

The principal air passenger and cargo services in order of importance are as follows: Passenger—Avianca, Lansa, Saeta, Aero-taxi; Cargo—Avianca, S.A.M., Lansa, Saeta, Latco.

Air Services Extended

During the year, Avianca's direct flights to New York were increased from two to three each way per week. In early spring, a service was established to Rome via Paris, which was suspended at the end of the year. In December, Lansa inaugurated a bi-weekly service to Havana. The approximate figures of passengers carried during the year 1950 are as follows: Passengers (domestic), approximately 880,000; cargo, 185-190 million kilos, a considerable increase over 1949. Lansa was authorized to carry airmail, which had previously all been handled by Avianca.

The various airlines are made up of the following number of planes, which consist of DC3's, DC4's, C46's, C47's, C54's and several PBY's: Avianca, 40; Lansa, 18; S.A.M., 16; Saeta, 5. The general tendency of the various airlines is to purchase additional equipment. During 1950, two used DC4's were procured by Lansa. Two new Constellations have been ordered by Avianca to be delivered during 1951.

There has been no increase in passenger fares. The air-cargo rates are considered competitive with surface freight rates which are, however, among the highest in the world. No accidents were reported by commercial airlines during the year.

Cereal and Cotton Crops Exceed Estimates

Istanbul, October 3, 1951.—(FTS)—According to an announcement made by the Minister of Agriculture, the cereal crop actually produced is even greater than the most optimistic forecasts. Of a total cereal crop of 10,818,462 tons, wheat accounts for 5·65 million tons, barley 2·65 million tons, rye 600,000 tons, oats 360,000 tons, corn 841,000 tons. Indicated results for cotton are around 187,000 tons, representing about 935,000 bales.

It is also reported that the Soil Products Office (Toprak Mahsulleri Ofisi) has purchased 900,000 tons of cereals as compared with purchases in 1950 amounting to only 450,000 tons. It is understood that the government has decided to authorize the export of 200,000 tons of cereals, comprising 80,000 tons of wheat, 20,000 tons of barley and 100,000 tons of rye. Syria is reported to be negotiating for 50,000 tons of wheat and Lebanon for 25,000 tons.

Canadian Imports by Commodities

Commodities	September 1938	September 1950	September 1951	January—September 1938	January—September 1950	January—September 1951
MAIN GROUPS	(Millions of Dollars)					
Agricultural and Vegetable Products	9·0	41·8	35·4	91·9	334·8	415·7
Animals and Animal Products	1·9	7·5	9·6	19·1	56·6	97·7
Fibres, Textiles and Products	6·9	31·8	30·5	65·4	255·0	400·3
Wood, Wood Products and Paper	2·8	8·7	10·7	23·8	72·1	103·3
Iron and Products	11·6	77·3	102·9	125·0	722·1	1,020·8
Non-Ferrous Metals and Products	3·3	21·5	21·0	29·3	150·6	220·6
Non-Metallic Minerals and Products	12·4	62·6	62·4	90·1	431·6	512·2
Chemicals and Allied Products	3·1	13·6	14·1	24·4	115·2	148·0
Miscellaneous Commodities	5·5	15·0	24·9	36·8	121·6	223·3
TOTAL IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION	56·4	279·7	311·5	506·0	2,259·5	3,142·0
	(Thousands of Dollars)					
Agricultural, Vegetable Products:						
Fruits	1,533	7,940	7,254	15,480	67,570	71,998
Nuts	306	1,128	1,487	2,176	16,615	17,537
Vegetables	130	306	518	5,160	20,547	23,406
Grains and products	949	4,511	2,103	13,329	24,410	28,499
Sugar and products	1,750	7,358	9,859	14,730	54,153	66,791
Cocoa and chocolate	134	1,646	396	1,463	12,230	9,898
Coffee and chicory	254	5,039	3,112	3,007	30,557	36,044
Spices	62	140	231	631	3,077	2,855
Tea	766	1,794	1,173	7,033	21,585	16,009
Beverages, alcoholic	649	1,522	1,381	4,288	10,840	11,963
Gums and resins	126	648	455	1,021	4,024	5,281
Oil cake and oil cake meal	32	161	627	483	1,306	2,874
Oils, vegetable	762	2,312	1,325	9,293	23,736	34,693
Plants, shrubs, trees, vines, etc	295	512	620	647	1,478	2,130
Rubber and products	723	5,556	3,980	7,704	30,515	71,749
Seeds	188	291	176	1,332	4,606	5,947
Tobacco	195	319	211	1,630	2,818	2,629
Vegetable products, other	174	585	475	2,504	4,724	5,376
TOTAL	9,027	41,766	35,383	91,910	334,789	415,678
Animals and Animal Products:						
Animals, living	56	114	146	834	1,681	2,351
Fish and fishery products	243	393	662	1,810	2,907	4,507
Furs and products	346	2,154	917	4,766	15,686	18,579
Hides and skins, raw	190	1,082	721	1,722	8,295	12,404
Leather, unmanufactured	230	702	451	1,895	5,751	7,822
Leather, manufactured	304	668	758	1,902	4,791	6,284
Meats	182	907	2,429	1,152	4,747	16,711
Milk and products	22	168	1,676	1,667	1,639	7,166
Animal oils, fats, greases, wax	68	680	479	615	3,502	9,045
Animal products, other	275	652	1,343	2,764	7,563	12,809
TOTAL	1,916	7,520	9,581	19,126	56,561	97,678
Fibres, Textiles and Products:						
Cotton, raw and linters	604	9,983	4,334	8,608	58,380	72,517
Cotton products	1,418	4,839	4,640	12,516	48,736	71,807
Flax, hemp, jute and products	746	2,277	2,159	6,216	19,179	25,297
Silk and products	608	644	501	5,010	5,175	6,324
Wool, raw and unmanufactured	651	4,517	6,579	7,235	38,035	88,341
Wool products	1,305	4,229	4,979	12,246	39,091	57,029
Synthetic fibre and products	383	1,656	2,181	2,687	14,757	29,427
Textile products, other	1,147	3,693	5,122	10,920	31,688	49,581
TOTAL	6,861	31,837	30,496	65,438	255,041	400,322
Wood, Wood Products and Paper:						
Wood, unmanufactured	366	1,442	1,984	4,036	13,050	22,689
Wood, manufactured	373	1,498	1,545	3,208	11,716	17,966
Paper	660	1,929	2,636	5,565	16,504	25,219
Books and printed matter	1,388	3,788	4,530	11,034	30,789	37,449
TOTAL	2,786	8,656	10,695	23,842	72,059	103,323

Canadian Imports, by Commodities—Concluded

Commodities	September			January—September		
	1938	1950	1951	1938	1950	1951
	(Thousands of Dollars)					
Iron and Its Products:						
Iron ore	439	3,341	3,349	2,108	11,112	16,098
Pigs, ingots, blooms and billets	33	590	585	366	1,512	7,216
Ferro-alloys	9	86	378	216	803	2,693
Scrap iron	32	576	327	487	3,699	3,215
Castings and forgings	241	1,003	1,156	1,976	6,515	9,382
Rolling mill products	1,758	8,746	16,358	18,246	63,424	125,858
Pipes, tubes and fittings	119	2,683	2,982	1,537	27,987	31,990
Wire and chain	96	869	1,356	1,566	7,439	12,006
Engines and boilers	594	3,710	7,798	6,502	41,301	61,940
Farm implements and machinery	1,443	8,922	14,188	18,434	134,046	155,400
Hardware and cutlery	172	909	1,176	1,605	8,147	13,111
Household machinery	265	970	684	2,031	9,562	10,486
Mining, metallurgical machinery	489	3,225	4,693	4,185	20,714	38,912
Business, printing machinery	448	1,636	2,632	4,525	19,241	28,449
Other non-farm machinery	1,653	11,493	17,995	18,471	113,896	170,366
Stamped and coated products	137	694	629	1,171	5,831	8,165
Tools	165	1,081	1,435	1,737	9,292	14,520
Autos, freight and passenger	328	6,292	2,299	9,644	62,327	65,073
Automobile parts	1,527	13,602	13,739	16,767	115,526	154,585
Other vehicles, chiefly iron	376	1,066	1,179	1,796	13,019	13,918
Cooking and heating apparatus	209	1,257	1,355	1,129	9,500	14,799
Iron products, other	1,027	4,514	6,617	10,464	37,203	62,635
TOTAL	11,560	77,266	102,910	124,961	722,097	1,020,819
Non-Ferrous Metals and Products:						
Aluminum and products	676	2,379	3,142	3,763	11,813	21,085
Brass and copper and products	194	1,477	1,281	2,381	11,924	16,447
Lead and products	12	29	35	98	523	670
Nickel and products	107	567	407	1,082	5,221	4,578
Precious metals (except gold)	194	5,144	1,566	2,081	22,162	24,316
Tin and products	218	1,233	1,010	1,727	6,544	13,643
Zinc and products	80	296	381	564	2,413	3,455
Clocks and watches	223	889	777	1,577	8,714	7,603
Electrical apparatus, n.o.p	1,030	6,490	9,717	9,816	59,093	91,183
Non-ferrous products, other	577	3,030	2,668	6,242	22,150	37,616
TOTAL	3,310	21,532	20,983	29,333	150,558	220,596
Non-Metallic Minerals and Products:						
Asbestos and products	77	217	243	659	1,783	2,527
Clay and products	583	2,857	3,198	5,958	24,128	33,302
Coal	3,358	18,072	14,924	25,581	125,675	121,148
Coal products	250	1,433	1,833	2,320	10,451	16,209
Glass and glassware	570	2,260	2,368	4,718	20,134	24,884
Petroleum, crude	5,459	19,984	20,578	31,347	144,683	175,269
Petroleum products, n.o.p.	1,096	13,199	12,983	11,115	71,112	92,138
Stone and products	580	2,264	3,283	5,113	17,506	25,725
Non-metallic products, other	451	2,214	3,013	3,335	16,091	21,039
TOTAL	12,422	62,501	62,422	90,145	431,563	512,242
Chemicals and Allied Products:						
Acids	119	524	525	1,168	4,063	5,964
Cellulose products	135	504	505	1,270	4,522	5,606
Drugs, medicines, pharmaceuticals	260	1,307	1,386	2,659	14,397	17,360
Dyeing and tanning materials	372	1,311	672	2,707	9,002	11,640
Fertilizers	294	552	743	1,770	6,008	7,344
Paints and varnishes	336	1,762	1,450	2,600	13,018	16,150
Inorganic chemicals, n.o.p.	825	2,284	2,320	5,785	16,968	20,781
Synthetic resins and products	86	1,818	1,903	625	15,232	22,493
Chemical products, other	650	3,561	4,610	5,848	32,008	40,687
TOTAL	3,078	13,621	14,114	24,432	115,218	148,025
Miscellaneous Commodities:						
Films	100	448	421	1,052	3,416	4,432
Toys and sporting goods	236	654	836	1,705	4,770	8,210
Refrigerators and parts	47	1,155	1,133	1,052	10,150	28,348
Musical instruments	120	325	285	903	2,728	3,645
Scientific equipment	369	1,695	1,999	3,283	16,695	20,534
Aircraft and parts	606	667	3,611	2,528	7,430	24,294
Works of art	61	168	411	901	1,860	2,508

Canadian Imports, by Main Groups

Commodities	September			January—September		
	1938	1950	1951	1938	1950	1951
	(Thousands of Dollars)					
Miscellaneous Commodities:—Conc.						
Canadian tourists' purchases	1,200	4,262	5,830	6,180	22,779	32,947
Parcels of small value	337	489	1,702	3,288	6,536	17,540
Wax, mineral and vegetable	38	207	152	305	1,816	2,175
Miscellaneous consumer goods	486	1,030	1,267	3,794	8,881	12,881
Miscellaneous, other	1,138	1,987	4,991	7,311	18,546	41,487
Canadian goods returned	302	389	359	1,682	4,868	6,006
Non-commercial articles	412	1,495	1,919	2,782	11,119	18,312
Total	5,451	14,972	24,916	36,765	121,593	223,319
All Countries						
Agricultural and Vegetable Products	9,027	41,766	35,383	91,910	334,789	415,678
Animals and Animal Products	1,916	7,520	9,581	19,126	56,561	97,678
Fibres, Textiles and Products	6,861	31,837	30,496	65,438	255,041	400,322
Wood, Wood Products and Paper	2,786	8,656	10,695	23,842	72,059	103,323
Iron and Products	11,560	77,266	102,910	124,961	722,097	1,020,819
Non-Ferrous Metals and Products	3,310	21,532	20,983	29,333	150,558	220,596
Non-Metallic Minerals and Products	12,422	62,501	62,422	90,145	431,563	512,242
Chemicals and Allied Products	3,078	13,621	14,114	24,432	115,218	148,025
Miscellaneous Commodities	5,451	14,972	24,916	36,765	121,593	223,319
Total	56,412	279,671	311,500	505,953	2,259,479	3,142,001
United Kingdom						
Agricultural and Vegetable Products	1,323	2,593	1,725	11,741	20,141	13,748
Animals and Animal Products	416	898	971	3,415	6,648	10,517
Fibres, Textiles and Products	3,353	9,412	9,186	30,835	81,694	119,340
Wood, Wood Products and Paper	339	326	306	2,567	2,620	3,160
Iron and Products	1,226	11,723	7,614	17,267	107,868	100,143
Non-Ferrous Metals and Products	390	5,778	2,648	4,234	27,195	33,030
Non-Metallic Minerals and Products	1,482	2,553	2,466	9,509	21,895	25,020
Chemicals and Allied Products	685	1,400	1,399	4,718	9,818	12,041
Miscellaneous Commodities	801	1,530	2,244	5,357	12,486	18,516
Total	10,015	36,213	28,559	89,644	290,364	335,515
United States						
Agricultural and Vegetable Products	3,086	13,083	11,365	36,869	125,508	151,768
Animals and Animal Products	901	4,925	4,444	8,327	37,738	60,586
Fibres, Textiles and Products	2,026	9,647	11,724	21,288	98,131	174,664
Wood, Wood Products and Paper	2,215	7,966	9,834	19,662	66,458	94,611
Iron and Products	9,872	63,668	89,027	102,912	601,701	878,905
Non-Ferrous Metals and Products	1,904	11,380	13,663	18,605	97,022	148,494
Non-Metallic Minerals and Products	8,841	43,169	39,267	68,188	302,312	326,335
Chemicals and Allied Products	1,861	11,665	11,916	16,457	99,128	127,498
Miscellaneous Commodities	4,000	11,849	20,358	27,095	97,100	184,049
Total	34,705	177,353	211,597	319,403	1,525,099	2,146,910
Other Countries						
Agricultural and Vegetable Products	4,617	26,090	22,293	43,300	189,140	250,163
Animals and Animal Products	599	1,697	4,167	7,384	12,176	26,575
Fibres, Textiles and Products	1,483	12,777	9,585	13,315	75,217	106,318
Wood, Wood Products and Paper	232	364	556	1,613	2,981	5,552
Iron and Products	462	1,875	6,269	4,783	12,528	41,771
Non-Ferrous Metals and Products	1,017	4,374	4,672	6,493	26,340	39,071
Non-Metallic Minerals and Products	2,099	16,779	20,689	12,448	107,356	160,887
Chemicals and Allied Products	532	556	800	3,257	6,272	8,486
Miscellaneous Commodities	650	1,592	2,314	4,313	12,007	20,754
Total	11,692	66,105	71,344	96,906	444,016	659,576

Hungary Prohibits Entry of Canned Foods in Gift Parcels

Information has been received from the Postal Administration of Hungary that food in soldered tin cans, or other hermetically sealed containers, is prohibited entry to that country in gift parcels.

Trade Notes

BRAZIL

French Industry May Establish in Minas Gerais

Rio de Janeiro, October 25, 1951.—(FTS)—Press reports indicate that the Schneider group of French manufacturers will transfer their big truck factory to the State of Minas Gerais. It is also reported that another industrial group, presumably French, is interested in erecting a tractor and excavator factory in Minas Gerais.

Brazil Exports Sugar to Japan for First Time

Rio de Janeiro, October 30, 1951.—(FTS)—For the first time in history, Brazil is exporting sugar to Japan. An export licence for 500 tons of sugar has been granted recently.

Quartz, Diamonds and Amethysts Found in Bahia

Rio de Janeiro, October 25, 1951.—(FTS)—Recent reports from the State of Bahia indicate that large deposits of quartz, diamonds and amethysts have been located on the banks of the Caroá River, a tributary of the Amazon. The State Government has asked the Ministry of Agriculture to send technicians to assess the extent and value of the deposits.

COLOMBIA

Oil Pipeline Being Built in Colombia

Bogotá, October 29, 1951.—(FTS)—The new oil pipeline which is being built from Bogotá to Puerto Salgar will be inaugurated in March 1952. The pipeline will lift finished oil products from an altitude of 100 feet to 8,700 feet and extend for 140 kilometres, at a cost of over US$3 million. The capacity of this line is estimated at 8,850 barrels a day of finished petroleum products such as gasoline, fuel oil, etc. There are five stations through which the fuel is pumped, namely, Puerto Salgar, Guaduas, Villeta, Alban, and Bogotá.

This project should solve Bogotá's periodic gasoline shortages, formerly due to landslides which blocked railway lines and roads.

Colombian Cotton Production Continues to Increase

Bogotá, October 29, 1951.—(FTS)—Colombian cotton production has reached an all-time high. The Departments of Bolivar and Tolima are the most important regions for cotton production. There are now 25,000 acres under cultivation in Bolivar near the Sinú River, close to the Caribbean. The cotton produced in this new area is of medium-long fibre, while Tolima cotton is long staple. Records show that Tolima has produced 8,100 tons of raw uncleaned cotton valued at five million pesos and Bolivar's crop is expected to total another 8,000 tons. This marks steady progress in Colombian agricultural expansion. Domestic raw cotton production now fills almost half the requirements of the Colombian cotton textile industry, which supplies practically all the domestic demand for piece-goods.

Salt Plant to be Built in Colombia

Bogotá, October 29, 1951.—(FTS)—A new plant for table salt production is being planned at Zipaquirá near Bogotá, which it is estimated will produce 63,000 tons of iodized salt a year. The Banco de la Republica has agreed to make a loan of 5,000,000 pesos for the construction of the plant. The plant will be designed to produce 200 tons a day, and will operate in conjunction with the large caustic soda and soda ash plant just completed last month. From a medical point of view this treated salt is considered indispensable to control goitre disease, which has reached alarming proportions, due primarily to a complete lack of iodine in all Colombian table salt.

HONG KONG

Value of Hong Kong Trade Increased

Hong Kong, November 7, 1951.—(FTS)—Imports into Hong Kong during the first nine months of 1951 amounted to \$3,604·1 million as compared with \$2,555·8 million in the first nine months of 1950, an increase in value of total imports of 41 per cent to date in 1951.

The value of exports totalled \$3,638·1 million, as compared with \$2,467·2 million in the 1950 period, an increase of 47·5 per cent during the current year.

Hong Kong has Large Number of Vehicles

Hong Kong, November 7, 1951.—(FTS)—According to data released by the Hong Kong police, the colony probably has the greatest vehicular density per mile of road of any territory in the world.

With 15,741 registered motor vehicles at October 15, 1951 (exclusive of vehicles operated by the armed forces), Hong Kong has a density per mile of road of 38·39 vehicles, compared with 20·5 in the United States, and 17·7 in Great Britain.

Japanese Trade Agency May be Established in Hong Kong

Hong Kong, November 7, 1951.—(FTS)—The Japanese Government is said to be planning to request permission to establish an overseas agency in Hong Kong. The purpose of the agency is to facilitate Japanese trade with Hong Kong, assist in the gathering of trade information re South-East Asia regions, and remove some of the present difficulties regarding the settlement of trade accounts between Japan and Communist China.

Hong Kong Trade with China Declining

Hong Kong, November 7, 1951.—(FTS)—The value of Hong Kong's trade with China (exclusive of Formosa), for the first nine months of 1951 has exceeded that for the same period in 1950 by over 40 per cent.

However, since the imposition of the embargo on strategic goods to China by the colony on June 25, trade with the mainland has dropped very sharply. Compared with the average monthly values of exports and imports during the period January-June, 1951, inclusive, exports to China during September were lower by 54 per cent, imports were down by 38 per cent.

	Imports (HK$ million)	Exports (HK$ million)	Total (HK$ million)
Nine months 1951	623·4	1,423·6	2,047·0
*Nine months 1950	584·4	889·0	1,473·4
Jan.-June, 1951 monthly average	75·9	191·9	....
July, 1951	67·9	81·4	....
August, 1951	52·9	102·2	....
September, 1951	47·3	88·8	....

*1950 figures *inclusive* of trade with Formosa.

INDIA

Bombay to Have India's First Oil Refinery

Bombay, November 8, 1951.—(FTS)—United States oil experts are attempting to find a suitable location on Bombay's harbour for the installation of an oil refinery which will be the first of three proposed for India. Standard Vacuum Oil Company is interested in the Bombay venture, while Caltex and Burmah Shell will explore the possibility of setting up similar plants in Madras and Calcutta. Each refinery is likely to have a capacity of 1,000,000 tons per year.

India Has Sulphur-Bearing Pyrites Deposits

Bombay, October 23, 1951.—(FTS)—Government geologists are prospecting extensive deposits of pyrites which have been discovered in the south of Bombay State. Deposits have been traced over a 12-mile area and are reported to contain 51 per cent sulphur, 5 per cent nickel and about 1 per cent copper. It is estimated that 4,000 tons of sulphur could be produced monthly from 10,000 tons of ore and would make India self-sufficient in this scarce raw material. India requires 40,000 tons of sulphur a year, almost entirely imported from the United States and Japan to supply 43 plants manufacturing 100,000 tons of sulphuric acid annually.

India Will Allow Free Imports of Power-Generating Sets

Bombay, October 23, 1951.—(FTS)—Bombay State factories and particularly textile mills are faced with a critical power shortage and it is expected they will be called upon to reduce consumption of electric power by one-third. Textile mills will likely go on a 40-hour week and possibly close down altogether during the hot weather next April and May when absenteeism is at its height. To alleviate this situation certain power-generating equipment has been placed on Open General Licence No. XXIII which will allow the equipment to be imported without an import licence up to June 30, 1952.

JAPAN

Japan to Have Large Coal Shortage

Tokyo, October 11, 1951.—(FTS)—The Economic Stabilization Board reports that Japan will produce 45 million tons of coal during the current fiscal year and will also import 1·2 million tons. However, this will not be enough to meet the current demand and the coal shortage will amount to 1,575,000 tons.

Japan Plans to Increase Power Supply

Tokyo, September 11, 1951.—(FTS)—The Economic Rehabilitation Planning Office of the Economic Stabilization Board reports that it is expected to increase electric power output by 1,800,000 kilowatts by the end of March, 1953. The program calls for an additional output of 1,100,000 kilowatts by the power companies, 400,000 kilowatts by private plants, and 300,000 kilowatts by local governments.

Japan Air Lines Commence Regular Flights

Tokyo, November 2, 1951.—(FTS)—Japan's first postwar domestic air service commenced regular flights on November 1 between Tokyo, Osaka, Fukuoka and Sapporo. Three passenger planes have been leased from Northwest Air Lines for this service.

Japan Receives Foreign Orders for Tankers

Tokyo, November 1, 1951.—(FTS)—The Standard Vacuum Oil Company, New York, has placed orders in Japan for two tankers of 26,500 deadweight tons each. In addition, another contract has been signed for the construction of two Panamanian oil tankers of 19,000 deadweight tons each.

More Vessels for Japan-New York Route

Tokyo, October 22, 1951.—(FTS)—Japanese shipping companies operating between Japan and New York have added four more vessels to their fleet, giving them a total of five high-speed vessels on this route.

Japan Contracts with Portuguese Goa for Iron Ore

Tokyo, October 25, 1951.—(FTS)—The Ministry of International Trade and Industry announced that Japan has signed a contract to import 500,000 tons of iron ore annually from Portuguese Goa. The Japan Export Bank has decided to grant 400,000,000 yen for the development of metal mines in Goa. Japan will supply plant equipment in return for iron ore.

Export Prices for Japanese Watches and Clocks May be Increased

Tokyo, September 8, 1951.—(FTS)—It is estimated that Japan is exporting three million clocks and watches per month. Export prices for hanging clocks, alarm clocks and watches may be increased from ten to thirty per cent as a result of increased manufacturing costs and marked quality improvements.

Chemical Fertilizer Production Below Capacity

Tokyo, August 30, 1951.—(FTS)—For the twelve months ending July 31, 1951, the Japanese chemical fertilizer industry operated at about 80 per cent of capacity and produced 1,643,000 tons of ammonium sulphate, 431,000 tons of calcium cyanamide, 1,354,000 tons of superphosphate of lime, and 170,000 tons of soluble phosphoric fertilizer.

Lemons Shipped from New Zealand to Great Britain

Wellington, November 6, 1951.—(FTS)—The 200 cases of lemons which had been shipped experimentally by the New Zealand Marketing Department to London were marketed early in October and found a ready reception. This is the first shipment of New Zealand lemons ever made to Britain and sold at about 5s. per bushel higher than the price being received for Italian lemons. An experimental shipment of grapefruit was also placed on the London market, but difficulty has been encountered in selling them due to a glut of grapefruit on the market.

Japanese Wool Buyers Permitted to Enter New Zealand

Wellington, November 6, 1951.—(FTS)—The New Zealand Government is now permitting Japanese wool buyers to enter New Zealand at any time and in unrestricted numbers. Consideration will also be given to the entrance of other Japanese businessmen. During 1950 exports from New Zealand to Japan amounted to £997,000, while imports from Japan amounted to £477,000. While for the first quarter of 1951 exports to Japan amounted to £904,000 and imports from Japan to £62,000, these figures compare with an average value of New Zealand exports to Japan of £1·75 million per annum and an average value of imports from Japan of £1·39 million per annum for the years 1936 to 1938.

The possibility of Japan flooding the New Zealand market with cheap goods has raised a great deal of apprehension during the last few months, but the government's policy is to ensure that imports from Japan consist of goods which are of an essential nature and are not obtainable from Commonwealth countries.

New Zealand Imports of Motor Cars Increased

Wellington, November 6, 1951.—(FTS)—According to the Minister of Industries and Commerce, the New Zealand imports of motor cars during the calendar year 1951 should be well over 20,000. A total of 15,836 new cars was imported during the first eight months of the year, compared with 11,505 for the first eight months of 1950 and 6,578 during the same period in 1949. If the present rate of imports is maintained, it is expected that the shortage of cars will be overtaken late in 1952.

Value of Products of New Zealand's Manufacturing Industries Higher

Wellington, November 6, 1951.—(FTS)—The gross value of the products of manufacturing industries in New Zealand increased from £309·6 million in 1946-47 to £435·8 million in 1949-50, while the percentage of net output to national income has remained around 23 per cent since 1946-47. An interesting point is that farm products processing industries export 78 per cent of the gross value of their products, compared with only 25 per cent for the whole manufacturing sector. Virtually no exports are made from industries other than those processing farm products. The utilization of imported materials by farm products processing industries amounts to only 1·3 per cent of their costs of production as compared with 13 per cent for manufacturing industries as a whole.

Cotton Textile Mill Planned for the Philippines

Manila, September 17,1951.—(FTS)—The Philippine Government-owned National Development Company recently announced that a cotton textile mill will be established in the Philippines in conjunction with a proposed rayon plant, to undertake principally the manufacture of staple fibres, transparent wrapping material and tire cords. The plan will require an investment of $3·5 million.

Meat Canning Industry Expands in the Philippines

Manila, September 17, 1951.—(FTS)—The Rose Packing Company, a Philippine corporation, has recently announced a proposal to erect another meat canning plant in the Philippines, with a capacity of 5 million cans a year. At present, the company operates a factory near Manila, with a capacity of 10,000 cans a day. The company believes that it should be possible for the Philippines to be self-supporting.

The 1950 importation of canned products during the first 11 months totalled 5,700,000 cans of the 4-oz. size and 3,000,000 of the 12-oz. size.

Cans for this industry are being imported owing to the lack of locally-produced cans. Representation will be made to the Philippine Government to have its can making plant re-opened.

The Rose Packing Company states that it will produce products similar in size and content to those imported, as it is already familiar to the consumers and will encounter minimum sales resistance.

Philippine Pineapple Industry to Expand Production

Manila, September 17, 1951.—(FTS)—One of the most important pineapple canning industries in the world plans to invest an additional $5 million in the Philippines in an effort to double production in three years. Negotiations have been completed with the Philippine government-owned National Development Company extending the packing company's lease on its 17,500 acre plantation for another 12 years. On the completion of the investment contemplated, at present levels of production, the canning of pineapples and pineapple juice would reach $22 million.

Philippine Forestry Director Despatched to Japan

Manila, September 14, 1951.—(FTS)—The Philippine Government has decided to send the Director of Forestry to Japan to investigate the problems of expanding the lumber and general export trade of the Philippines with Japan.

In addition, while in Japan, the Director of Forestry will observe: How wood waste incurred in sawing (sawdust) and remanufacture is recovered for the manufacture of useful articles; how the waste incurred in the manufacture of veneers is utilized into useful articles, and the percentage of recovery; methods and manufacture of bamboo into slide rules, drafting rulers, umbrella handles, and other products; and methods and extent to which Philippine logs exported to Japan are utilized in various articles and the percentage that goes into each item.

Paint Factory Forced to Close Down in the Philippines

Manila, September 14, 1951.—(FTS)—The Philippine paint industry has made great efforts to supply the Philippine market with modern products. However, for the first time in 30 years, one of the most important paint factories has closed down. It is stated that import control is responsible.

Strict licensing of imports was introduced in 1950 and licences for paints for the year 1950 totalled $3,294,500. Paint imports for the second quarter of 1951 totalled $3,355,737.71.

Storage Batteries Manufacture Contemplated in the Philippines

Manila, September 14, 1951.—(FTS)—Arrangements have been made for the manufacture or assembling of an American storage battery in Manila. Production has been organized in a $55,000 factory and Manila-made batteries should be available towards the end of September.

Coconut Wallboard Plant Under Study in the Philippines

Manila, October 8, 1951.—(FTS)—The Board of Directors of the National Development Company has recently approved the blueprint for a $4 million coconut wallboard plant, using coconut husks and other by-products on a large scale. Coconut wallboard has proven to be a good building material.

It is planned to establish the plant in Lucena, Quezon Province, centre of the coconut growing region. Meantime, a coconut experimental station is to be established in Calauag, Quezon.

Bags of Philippine Fibres to be Produced Shortly

Manila, October 8, 1951.—(FTS)—The Philippine Fibres Processing Company, the first bag factory to be established in the Philippines, will shortly begin production in their plant located in Pandacan, near Manila.

The factory's present output, using fibre imported from Pakistan, is 7,000 bags a day or 2 million bags a year. When the local supply of kenaf fibre is available in late October, the factory expects to increase its production to 4 million bags a year, by working two shifts.

Philippine Toothpick Plant Erected

Manila, October 5, 1951.—(FTS)—The first toothpick plant in the Philippines has started operations with a daily capacity of 16,000 packages. The plant is using local wood veneers which are cut by special machines, after which the toothpicks are sterilized and packaged. The toothpicks are marketed under the trade name of "Atlas".

Two New Industries to Start Operations in the Philippines

Manila, October 5, 1951.—(FTS)—Two important industries will shortly start operations in Iloilo. One is the Apan Starch Manufacturing Company which will produce 30 tons of cassava flour per day. The company has actually 180 hectares planted to cassava with an average of 60 tons per hectare.

The second industry consists of the manufacture of coir concrete board. With coir fibre as a basis, boards for walling, ceilings and roofing materials could be made for 4.75 pesos ($2.375) per sheet of 8′ x 4′ x ½″ which could be retailed at 6.00 to 6.75 pesos ($3.99 to $3.375) per sheet.

SOUTH AFRICA

South Africa's Imports at Record Level

Cape Town, October 31, 1951.—(FTS)—The Director of Imports and Exports in addressing the Annual Congress of Associated Chambers of Commerce of South Africa, emphasizes that imports during the first eight months of 1951 were at the highest level in the history of the Union and at a rate of £470 million per annum.

Though foreign credit balances have declined by £44 million during the six months to September 30, the position is regarded as satisfactory since the expenditure has been primarily for raw materials essential to the South African economy which were being stockpiled in anticipation of increasing international shortages and further advances in overseas prices. In effect, therefore, a portion of the financial reserves of the country was being converted to a commodity basis.

Having consideration for the stockpiling import of raw materials in excess of immediate requirements which is characterizing 1951 the rate of import into the country will be substantially lower during 1952.

Cost of Living Continues to Rise in South Africa

Cape Town, October 31, 1951.—(FTS)—Food prices in South Africa, which are already 16 per cent above 1948, have been advanced by about 4 per cent from November 1, through an upward revision of controlled selling prices. The items affected include bread (plus ½d. per loaf), flour (plus 2d. for 5-lb. unit), wheat (plus 3/6 for 200 lb. bag), higher prices are on bran meal, rye, oats, barley, semolena, butter (plus 1d. per lb.) and cheese (plus 1d. per lb.). From November 3, controlled beef carcass prices have been increased by 2½d. per lb., estimated 4d. per lb. retail, while mutton, freed from control, will probably advance 6d. per lb. retail.

The cost-of-living index for South Africa (1939=1,000) has advanced continuously to 1,288 (1944), 1,397 (1947), 1,478 (1948), 1,534 (1949), 1,593 (1950), and in the months of July, August and September 1951, has stood respectively at 1,722, 1,721 and 1723.

International Trade of South Africa at Peak

Cape Town, October 31, 1951.—(FTS)—Preliminary trade figures for the nine months to September 30, emphasize the high level of the country's international trade and give further evidence that the calendar year imports will reach the forecast total of £470 million. Imports during the period amounted to £356·7 million, compared with £214·4 million during the corresponding period of last year, while exports amounted to £253·6 million compared with £161·3 million.

In September, imports totalling £40·7 million, were £13·8 million above the similar month of 1950, while exports amounting to £25·7 million were below the 1950 value of £26 million, due to decreases in the value of export shipments on wool, diamonds, hides and skins, sugar and coal.

Swedish Iron Ore Exports Increased

Stockholm, October 30, 1951.—(FTS)—Sweden exported iron ore in the first eight months of 1951 to a value of 323 million kronor, which is 71 million kronor above the figure for the same period last year, an increase of 28 per cent, due mainly to price increases. The quantity rose by 6 per cent (9·67 million tons). The average price during these eight months was 33·44 kronor per ton against 30·80 kronor for the same period last year. The August price average was 37·62 kronor, or above 22 per cent more than the figure for last year.

Sweden Starts Campaign for Scrap Iron Collection

Stockholm, October 29, 1951.—(FTS)—A campaign has been undertaken in Sweden for the collection of scrap iron, as few imports are now received from the United States and Germany. Sixty per cent of Sweden's iron production (1·5 million tons) is won from resmelting scrap iron, 40 per cent being based on iron ore. This year only 55 per cent of scrap iron requirements were available on the home market, and only one-quarter of import requirements was obtainable. The campaign aims at stepping up the collection of scrap iron by 50 per cent. Whereas most industrial countries estimate that one-third of the iron production is re-used as scrap iron, the corresponding figure in Sweden is 20 per cent, or 350,000 tons a year.

Swedish Overseas Shipping Decreased

Stockholm, October 31, 1951.—(FTS)—Board of Trade statistics on Sweden's overseas shipping show a decrease of 15·4 per cent in September, as compared with the August figure. Arriving tonnage amounted to 2,411,000 net tons, as against 2,835,000 in August. Departing tonnage totalled 2,421,000 net tonnage, against 2,878,000 in August. German ships now rank second only to United Kingdom ships among foreign vessels calling at Swedish ports.

Swedish Trade For September has Favourable Balance

(One krona=Can.$0·2026.)

Stockholm, October 31, 1951.—(FTS)—September figures issued by the Board of Trade for Swedish foreign trade, as compared with those for August, show a considerable change from an import to an export surplus. Exports increased by no less than 159 million kronor or 21 per cent, while imports during the same period decreased by 83 million kronor, or about 10 per cent. Compared with September last year, there was an import increase of 214 million kronor or 40 per cent, and an export increase of 401 million or 78 per cent. For the whole period, January-September, 1951, trade in both directions increased by 61·6 per cent. In actual figures this comprised a rise in imports of 2,639 and in exports of 2,434 million kronor. The result of the various transactions for the period January-September is an import surplus of about 530 million, as compared with approximately 330 million kronor for the same period last year. The export surplus for September was almost 160 million kronor, as compared with an import surplus in August of 80 million kronor.

	1950 Sept.	1950 Jan.-Sept.	1951 Aug.	1951 Sept.	1951 Jan.-Sept.
	(Million kronor)				
Import	542	4,282	839	756	6,921
Export	514	3,954	756	915	6,388
Import surplus	23	[illegible]	[illegible]		5[illegible]
Export surplus	...	...	...	159	...

Sweden to Expand Peat Production

Stockholm, October 31, 1951.—(FTS)—The high prices of fuel in Sweden have made it worthwhile to expand peat production. The Swedish Fuel Commission has drafted a 10-year plan which has a long-term target of four million tons of peat annually. For 1952-54 a production of 400,000 tons annually is aimed at. It is hoped that coke can be produced from peat which can be used to replace charcoal and possibly also blast furnace coke. Thus two million tons of imported coal could be saved. Experiments with new processes are taking place at Riddarhyttan. It is pointed out that this new project is so expensive that only present high fuel prices and world developments which may result in a dearth of other fuels, could justify it.

Swedish Ball Bearing Industry Expanding

Stockholm, November 1, 1951.—(FTS)—Orders at the main S.K.F. Swedish factories have increased so far this year by 80 per cent over the volume for the same period last year. Many of these orders, however, could not be filled, and in a number of cases a delivery period of 12 to 18 months has been quoted. Considerable expansion in the form of new buildings and machinery has taken place at local S.K.F. plants during recent years, but owing to the labour shortage the increased production capacity could not be fully utilized. The Gothenburg and Katrineholm plants, employing a total of 5,200 workers, are now working at 75 per cent capacity only.

On the other hand, the company's factories in other countries are working at full capacity and since these, in the main, are not handicapped by the labour shortage which obstructs Swedish developments, considerable expansion has been undertaken in most of them.

In Philadelphia, new buildings are being erected at a cost of $10,000,000, and the number of workers is expected to increase from 3,600 to 4,000 in the near future. Both the factories in England, in Luton and Sundon, have been extended annually during and since the war. They both employ 3,000 men. In France, S.K.F. has no less than five factories, of which the newest has just been completed in Tours. This plant, which is one of S.K.F.'s most modern installations, is to produce railway roller bearings. The three S.K.F. factories in Germany, two in Schweinfurt and one in Cannstadt, where extensive war damage has now been repaired, at present employ 5,200 workers. As there is a satisfactory supply of labour in Germany, it is expected that this figure will increase considerably when present extension work is completed. The S.K.F. factory in Scarborough, Canada, which was established this year, is soon to be expanded. Further, in Holland it is planned to build a new plant which is scheduled to commence production during the latter half of 1952.

S.K.F.'s production, in recent years, has mostly increased in the larger bearings category, such as railway roller bearings. Automobile bearings, which are usually of the small ball bearing types, are estimated to com-

Sweden—Measuring outer diameter of a spherical roller bearing.

prise 20 per cent of the total S.K.F. production. It is of interest to note that S.K.F.'s largest roller bearings are worth as much as 15,000 times the smallest ball bearing types.

Before the Second World War, efforts were made to specialize the various factories on the types which they were best equipped to produce and for which there was a market near at hand. The war, however, reversed all plans in this direction and at present nearly all types of bearings are produced in most factories. Naturally, only a small number of the several thousand different types of bearings included in S.K.F.'s production are manufactured simultaneously, but the automatic machinery can easily be adjusted to manufacture the different types.

Trade and Tariff Regulations

New Belgian Congo Import Licensing Regulations to Relieve Port Congestion

Leopoldville, November 22, 1951.—(FTS)—The Belgian Congo authorities have now amplified the measures intended to relieve the serious congestion at their ports, especially Matadi. As a result, the original measures, outlined in *Foreign Trade* of November 24, 1951, have been amended and are now as follows:

The validity of all existing import licences expires on December 15, on which date the goods must have reached the Belgian Congo Customs. After this, new licences must be applied for. Their maximum validity is six months, but they may be extended if necessary.

The general principle to be followed in the granting of import licences is that those covering goods essential to the economic life of the colony may be issued freely. On the other hand, the importation of non-essential goods and those of which sufficient stocks exist may be temporarily delayed. All licences which are being cancelled will be reinstated as soon as the transport situation permits.

While no lists of goods according to essentiality have yet been drawn up, nearly all Canadian exports to the Belgian Congo are of a nature which seems to fall within the essential category.

Leopoldville, November 29, 1951.—(FTS)—Existing licences covering goods entering the Belgian Congo via ports other than Matadi are not subject to the above provisions, but will remain valid for the period covered by the licence.

New Costa Rican Exchange Law and Customs Tariff Established

Guatemala City, November 21, 1951.—(FTS)—A new Costa Rican International Payments Law was made effective on October 1, 1951. It is a simplified version of the previous regulations which have been in effect since April 1, 1950. The five exchange categories and the varying exchange surcharges applicable thereto have been eliminated. Under the new regulations a list of "Articles of Prime Necessity," which is substantially the same as the preferential list of the superseded regulations, may be imported at the official rate of exchange. All other imports must be financed at the free exchange rate.

Simultaneously with the promulgation of the International Payments Law, a revised customs tariff was introduced in Costa Rica. The tariff classifications have undergone only minor changes, but the new specific rates of duty have been substantially increased, partly as a result of the incorporation of a number of import charges which had previously been levied separately. In addition to the specific rates of duty, which continue to be levied on the gross weight of most imports, an ad valorem duty, usually two per cent of the f.o.b. value, is imposed under the new tariff.

Information regarding rates of duty and exchange regulations applicable to imports of specified goods into Costa Rica under the new laws may be obtained, on request, from the Foreign Tariffs Division, Department of Trade and Commerce, Ottawa.

Italy Temporarily Reduces Customs Tariff

Rome, November 14, 1951.—(FTS)—Italy temporarily reduced by 10 per cent the rates of customs duty applicable to most tariff items until March 31, 1952, by virtue of a Presidential decree effective November 4, 1951. The few items on which the new reductions are not applicable cover mostly manufactured articles and food products available in Italy. These reductions are supplementary to those already provided for by the interim tariff which came into force on July 15, 1950, and was to expire on December 31, 1951. The application of the general tariff is thus delayed at least until March 31, 1952.

In addition to the above reductions, the application of customs duties is suspended for the same period on certain items including such goods of interest to Canada as cod, stockfish and similar fish dried, salted or smoked, and poultry eggs.

The purpose of the reductions and suspensions is to increase imports from countries belonging to the European Payments Union and thus to reduce the large credits which have recently accrued to Italy as a result of an export surplus to these countries. The new rates, however, should have little effect on Canadian exports to Italy, which depend more on availability of foreign exchange in that country than on rates of duty.

Irish Steel Industry to be Expanded

Dublin, October 17, 1951.—(FTS)—Irish Steel Ltd., in which the Irish Government has a financial interest, is planning major expansions, including the installation of a sheet mill. The sheet mill would be an entirely new venture in Ireland. The firm has the assurance that the government will provide financial assistance.

The industry is considered capable of making a susbtantial contribution to Irish steel supplies, which are now imported from Great Britain and the Continent at high prices and subject to uncertain deliveries. The limited range of steel products presently available from the steel mills is being sold at prices substantially lower than those at which any steel of the same class could be imported and, within that range, the mills are meeting the total domestic demand.

Economy of Mauritius Affected by Inferior Sugar Crop

Cape Town, October 31, 1951.—(FTS)—The economic well-being of Mauritius is irrevocably associated with the sugar industry which supplies 97 per cent of the country's exports. The 1951 harvest is inferior to that of 1950. Despite satisfactory conditions during the growing season and the absence of hurricanes, late rains have extended the growing season and reduced the sugar yields. At this mid-harvest date a total outturn of 470,000 tons is forecast. Though this is only six per cent below the production for the 1950 season, it is based on the cultivation of a substantially larger area. With increasing labour costs, plus the expenses of extensive cultivation of new areas, returns will be materially reduced to the detriment of the consuming power of the colony's 500,000 population. Generally consumer demands are low. Collections are slow, retailers are in financial difficulties and requiring credit assistance which is forcing the importers to an over-traded position. Agents are being required to take up *del crede* guarantees to overseas suppliers and dishonoured trade drafts are increasingly prevalent. Since the first of the year the cost of living index has advanced from 310 (January) to 313 (April) to 337 (July).

Sugar exports since July 1 have included 33,500 tons to the United Kingdom, 15,100 tons to Colombo and 9,100 tons to Hong Kong. Other exports have included molasses, rum, hemp and ginger.

Foreign Exchange Quotations

The following are nominal quotations, furnished by the Foreign Exchange Division of the Bank of Canada. These quotations may be found useful in considering statistics and prices generally, but Canadian exporters are reminded that the kinds of currency which may be accepted for exports to different countries are specifically covered by the Foreign Exchange Control Act and Regulations, and that funds may sometimes be tendered in payment for exports which cannot, in fact, be transferred to Canada. Both importers and exporters are advised to communicate with their bankers before completing financial arrangements for the sale or purchase of commodities, to ensure that the method of payment contemplated is not only possible but that it is in accordance with the Foreign Exchange Control Act and Regulations.

Country	Monetary Unit	—	Nominal Quotations Sept. 17*	Nominal Quotations Nov. 19	Nominal Quotations Nov. 26
Argentina	Peso	Off.	·2977	·2090	·2088
		Free	·2085	·0722	·0724
Austria	Schilling	Export	....	·0489	·0488
Australia	Pound	....	3·2240	2·3400	2·3370
Belgium and Belgian Congo	Franc	....	·0228	·0208	·0207
Bolivia	Boliviano	....	·0238	·0174	·0174
British West Indies (Except Jamaica)	Dollar	....	·8396	·6096	·6089
Brazil	Cruzeiro	....	·0544	·0565	·0564
Burma	Rupee	....	·3022	....	....
Ceylon	Rupee	....	·3022	·2195	·2192
Chile	Peso	....	·0233	·0115	·0115
Colombia	Peso	....	·5128	·4180	·4175
Costa Rica	Colon	....	·1800	·1865	·1863
Cuba	Peso	....	1·0000	1·0450	1·0438
Czechoslovakia	Koruna	....	·0200	·0209	·0208
Denmark	Krone	....	·2084	·1513	·1511
Dominican Republic	Peso	....	1·0000	1·0450	1·0438
Ecuador	Sucre	....	·0740	·0690	·0689
Egypt	Pound	....	4·1330	3·0008	2·9972
El Salvador	Colon	....	·4000	·4180	·4175
Fiji	Pound	....	3·6306	2·6360	2·6329
Finland	Markka	....	·0062	·0045	·0045
France, Monaco and French North Africa	Franc	....	·0037	·0030	·0030
French Empire—African	Franc	....	·0073	·0060	·0060
French Pacific Possessions	Franc	....	·0201	·0165	·0164
Germany	Deutsche Mark	....	·3000	·2488	·2485
Guatemala	Quetzal	....	1·0000	1·0450	1·0438
Haiti	Gourde	....	·2000	·2090	·2088
Honduras	Lempira	....	·5000	·5225	·5219
Hong Kong	Dollar	....	·2519	·1829	·1827
Iceland	Krona	....	·1541	·0642	·0641
India	Rupee	....	·3022	·2195	·2192
Iran	Rial	....	·0212	....	....
Iraq	Dinar	....	4·0300	2·9250	2·9213
Ireland	Pound	....	4·0300	2·9250	2·9213
Israel	Pound	....	3·0000	2·9250	2·9213
Italy	Lira	....	·0017	·0017	·0017
Jamaica	Pound	....	4·0300	2·9250	2·9213
Japan	Yen	....	·0028	....	....
Lebanon	Piastre	....	·4561	....	....
Mexico	Peso	....	·1157	·1208	·1207
Netherlands	Florin	....	·3769	·2750	·2747
Netherlands Antilles	Florin	....	·5308	·5541	·5535
New Zealand	Pound	....	4·0150	2·9250	2·9213
Nicaragua	Cordoba	....	·2000	·2090	·2088
Norway	Krone	....	·2015	·1463	·1461
Pakistan	Rupee	....	·3022	·3159	·3155
Panama	Balboa	....	1·0000	1·0450	1·0438
Paraguay	Guarani	....	·3200	....	....
Peru	Sol	....	·1538	·0655	·0654
Philippines	Peso	....	·4975	·5225	·5219
Portugal and Colonies	Escudo	....	·0400	·0362	·0361
Singapore	Straits Dollar	....	·4702	·3414	·3410
Spain and Colonies	Peseta	....	·0916	·0959	·0958
Sweden	Krona	....	·2783	·2020	·2018
Switzerland	Franc	....	·2336	·2392	·2389
Thailand	Baht	....	·1000	....	....
Turkey	Lira	....	·3571	·3732	·3728
Union of South Africa	Pound	....	4.0300	2·9250	2·9213
United Kingdom	Pound	....	4·0300	2·9250	2·9213
United States	Dollar	....	1·0000	1·0450	1·0437
Uruguay	Peso	....	·6583	·6880	·6871
Venezuela	Bolivar	....	·2985	·3119	·3116
Yugoslavia	Dinar	....	·0200	....	....

* September 17, 1949.