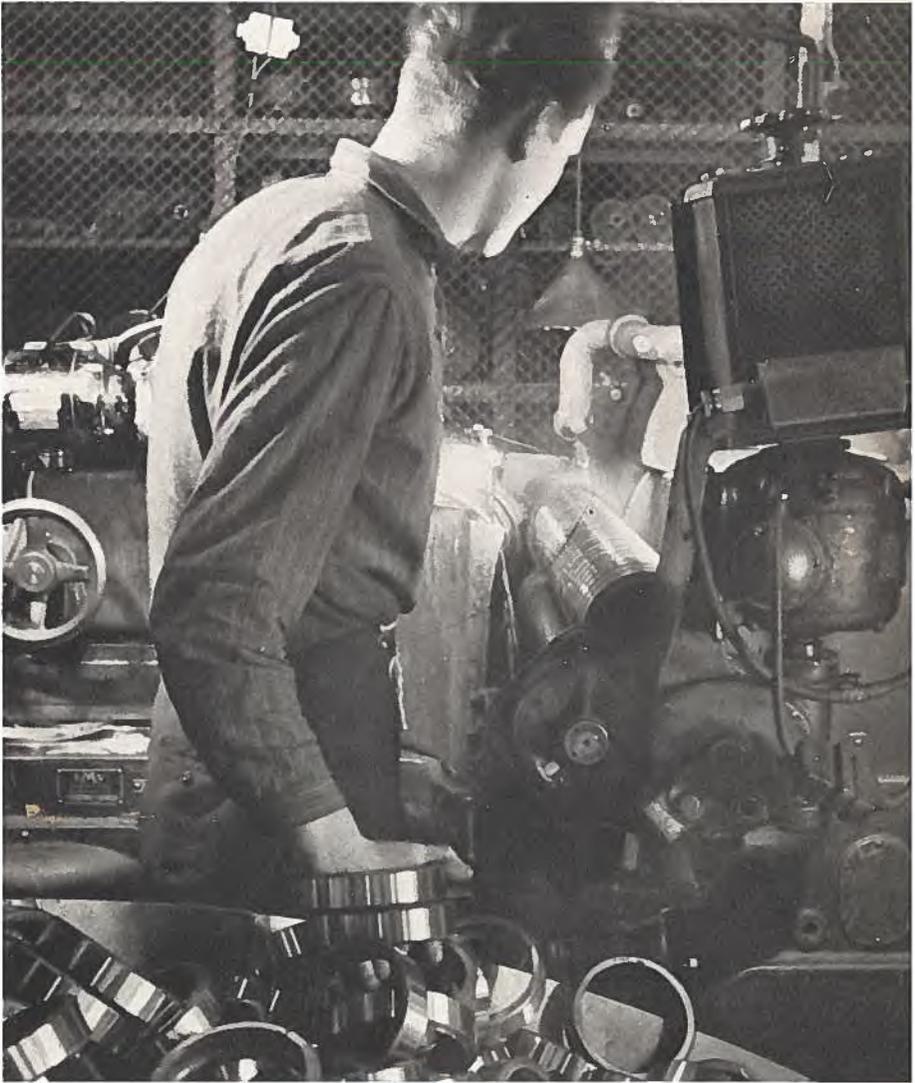


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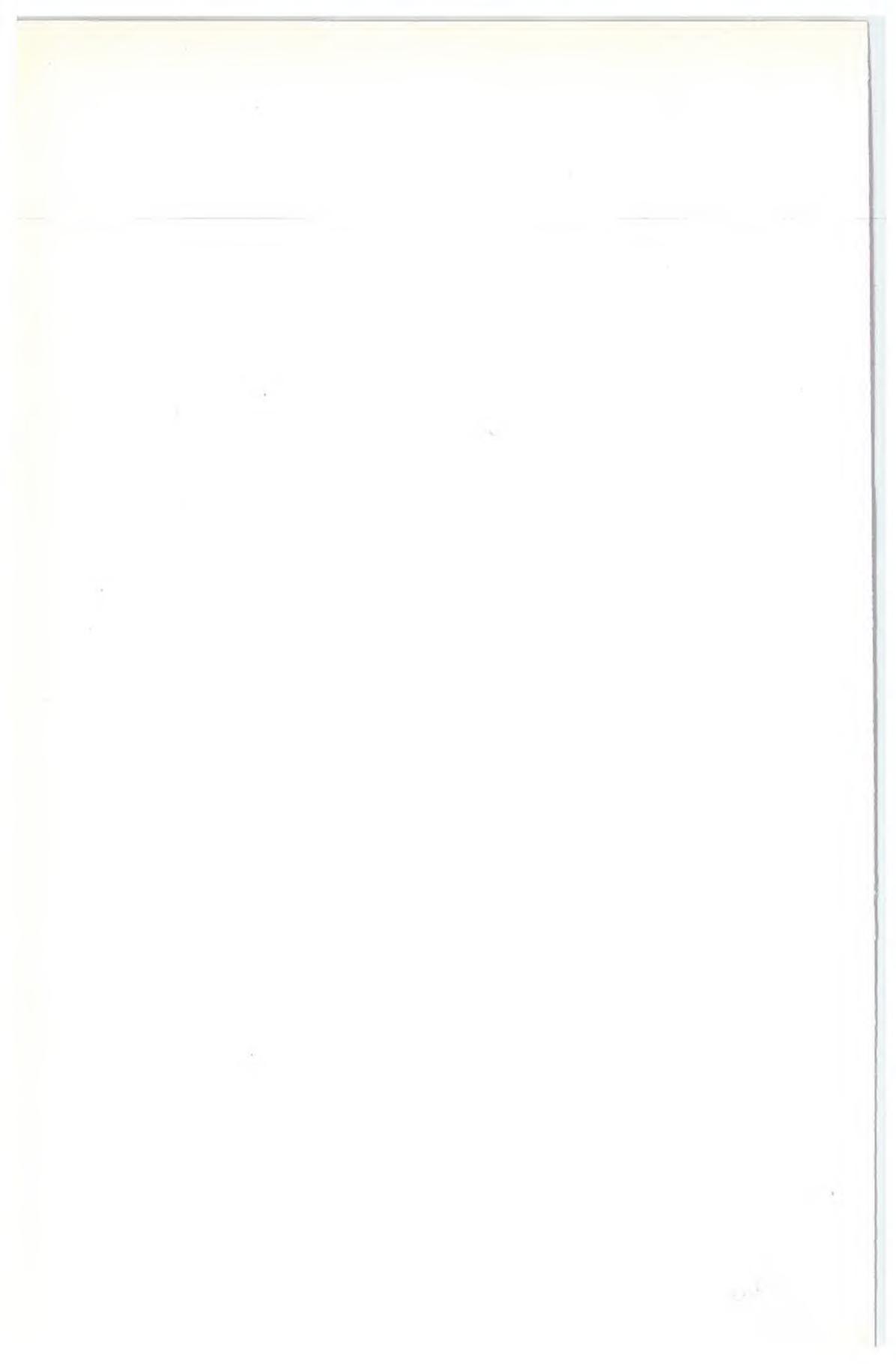
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Sweden Improves Its Terms of Trade

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foreign trade

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COVER . . . This workman is grinding bearing rings in the Goteborg plant of the SKF Company, known throughout the world. The engineering industry did its part in boosting Swedish production and increasing exports in 1951. (See report on page 2.)

—Photo by Swedish International Press Bureau.

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Sweden Improves Its Terms of Trade

Higher pulp and paper prices and greater production by the export industries helped Sweden achieve larger exports and a trading surplus in 1951.

STOCKHOLM—Boom conditions continued to prevail in Sweden during 1951. Total industrial production rose by four per cent during the year, with gains made by the export industries—timber, pulp and paper—and lesser ones by the engineering and shipbuilding industries. On the other hand, producers of consumer goods encountered buyer resistance to high prices and the textile and food industries particularly decreased their output. Industry's supplies of fuel and raw materials caused a good deal of concern, but on the whole had virtually no influence on the production figures. This problem is still in the foreground, however, and 1952 is expected to be another year of tight negotiations if Sweden is to cover her essential requirements on the world market.

The harvest was one of the poorest since the war and approximately seven per cent lower than in 1950. Certain quantities of cereals and fodder grain had to be imported in the second half of the year; 35 thousand tons (approximately \$3,500,000 worth) of bread grain were imported from Canada. On the other hand, large quantities of butter and eggs were exported; Canada alone bought 6·4 million pounds of butter.

Foreign Trade

The most noticeable feature of Sweden's foreign trade in 1951 was the favourable development in her terms of trade abroad. Changes in the prices of forestry products were the chief factor. In value, imports rose by 3,100 million kronor to 9,189 million, an increase of about 51 per cent as compared with 1950. Exports increased by about 3,470 million to reach 9,170 million kronor, or about 61 per cent. It was therefore possible to keep the import surplus down to 19 million kronor as compared with 400 million in 1950. Adding the net income from shipping—which increased from 600 to 950 million kronor—and other invisible items, the favourable balance of trade for 1951 was approximately 850 million kronor as compared with 190 million in 1950.

The increase in the volume of imports is estimated at about 17 per cent as compared with 1950, but the export increase was only two per cent. The influence which the price increases had on Swedish foreign trade during 1951 is illustrated by the fact that export prices were over 40 per cent higher than in 1950 but the increase for import prices only about 12 per cent. According to estimates made by the Market Research Insti-

tute, Sweden's terms of trade improved by 23 per cent as compared with 1950, and by eight per cent as compared with 1948. This contributed about 1-1½ billion kronor to the economy.

Surplus on Current Account

Although import values expanded greatly in 1951 and export values only slightly, Sweden had an estimated surplus on current account of the balance of international payments of about 710 million kronor, because of the improved terms of trade. This improvement, however, rested largely on pulp and paper prices. In the last half of 1951, Sweden's position in the European Payments Union changed from a deficit to a credit of \$112 million (December 31, 1951).

Though the overall export volume increased only slightly in 1951, the following changes were noteworthy:

Exports: January-November 1951

(unit as given)

	1950	1951
Wood products (cubic meter)	3,992,561	4,335,069
Sulphate pulp (tons)	606,726	594,679
Sulphite pulp (tons)	1,000,682	954,362
Mechanical pulp (tons)	146,669	161,043
Paper and paper board (tons)	662,616	683,045
Iron ore (tons)	12,008,000	14,033,000
Iron and steel and products thereof (tons)	224,858	293,461
Matches (tons)	16,744	17,922

Import volume increased substantially; the following figures illustrate some of the changes for important raw materials:

Imports: January-November 1951

	1950	1951
Crude oil (tons)	32,732	55,155
Refined oil (1,000 tons)	3,384	4,365
Coal and coke (1,000 tons)	6,624	7,417
Rubber (tons)	13,686	18,277
Wood (tons)	11,877	9,402
Cotton (tons)	23,678	23,011
Iron (1,000 tons)	104	75
Copper (tons)	35,207	34,921

The Trade Pattern

A large part of the heavy increase in Sweden's imports and exports during 1951 took place in her trade with Europe, mainly Western Europe. Of the total import increase in 1951 of 3,100 million kronor, Europe accounted for approximately 66 per cent. The export increase at the same time was 3,470 million; Europe accounted for about 70 per cent. A heavy increase in Swedish imports from Western Germany and in Swedish exports to the United Kingdom marked the year; in both cases values were double the 1950 figures.

Total imports from Europe rose from 4,071·8 million kronor in 1950 to 6,123·3 million kronor in 1951. Swedish exports to European countries increased from 4,174·1 to 6,642 million kronor. Total European trade resulted in an export surplus of 518·7 million kronor.

Trade with the United Kingdom resulted in an export surplus of 254 million kronor against an import surplus of 402 million kronor in 1950. Trade with Western Germany showed, however, another tendency. Swedish purchases from that country increased from 649 to 1,219 million kronor; exports increased from 708 to only 916 million kronor because of the

restrictive German import policy. A change from an export surplus in 1950 of 59 million to an import surplus in 1951 of 304 million kronor has thus resulted.

Exports to the American continent rose to 1,558 million kronor, 480 million of which went to the United States, 341 million to Brazil, 405 million to Argentina and 59 million to Canada. The increase in exports to Canada amounts to no less than 33 million kronor as compared with 1950. On the import side there was an increase to 864 million kronor for the United States, 279 million for Brazil and 60.5 million for Canada (1950=21 million). Purchases from Argentina decreased by 13 million kronor, to 138 million.

In September, ERP aid to Sweden ceased but she remained a member of the OEEC. On August 31, the country joined the International Monetary Fund and the International Bank of Reconstruction and Development.

Industrial Production

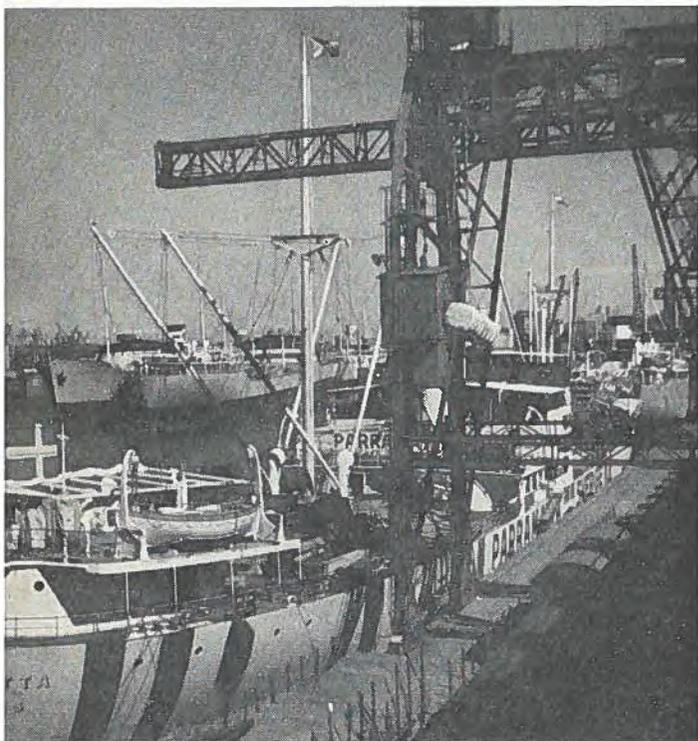
According to the Federation of Swedish Industries, the gross national production in 1951 at current market prices was about 38 billion kronor (\$7.3 billion), an increase of a little over one billion kronor, or about three per cent. This coincided with estimates made at the beginning of the year. As the number of industrial workers in the country increased only slightly, the increase comes mainly from higher productivity.

Industrial activity was, however, decidedly uneven as between the various industrial groups. The capital goods producers and the mining and forest products industries were greatly stimulated by a demanding market abroad and their output rose by an average of six per cent. Pulp and paper showed an increase of seven per cent, wood industry five per cent, and the mining and engineering industries six per cent. These export industries recorded large gross income returns as prices soared on the

foreign markets. On the other hand, industries producing for the domestic market lagged somewhat and the increase in this category was about two per cent only; this was particularly noticeable during the last half of the year. The foodstuffs industry increased its production by one per cent, the textile industry by two per cent. The leather and shoe industry decreased production by eight per cent.

(Left)

A view of the docks at Goteborg, Sweden's largest seaport, and outlet for much of her foreign commerce.



Shortages in raw materials did not, on the whole, seriously affect industrial output during 1951. Towards the end of the year, however, there began to be disturbing shortages of steel plate, iron scrap, ferro-alloys and coke. For this reason, preliminary estimates of industrial production for 1952 indicate an increase of two per cent only. Swedish producers anticipate changes in foreign markets and increased competition from abroad. If Swedish forestry products bring lower prices on the European market (and some such move is under discussion at this time of writing) one of Sweden's most important industries will have to decrease its production.

—B. J. BACHAND

Commercial Secretary for Canada.

India's Tea Exports Decline

BOMBAY—North Indian tea producers are facing serious market competition and their overseas sales are declining. Statistics confirm this statement. In the year ended March 31, 1952, shipments of North Indian tea to world markets totalled 342·198 million pounds—approximately 38 million pounds less than for the year ending March 31, 1950. Exports to markets outside the United Kingdom were some 24 million pounds below those of the previous year and over 30 million pounds less than in 1949. This decline can be attributed largely to smaller shipments to the United States, Canada, Australia and New Zealand—countries which have been drawing on the large stocks they purchased in the previous two seasons. In addition, some of the decrease can be traced to increased competition from Indonesia.

The following table shows direct shipments of North Indian teas to the major markets in the past two seasons:

	1951		1950	
	Lbs.	Per cent	Lbs.	Per cent
United Kingdom	231,761,000	67·72	248,353,000	65·32
U.S.A.	17,829,000	5·21	28,646,000	7·53
Iran and Persian Gulf.....	20,294,000	5·93	24,656,000	6·49
Canada	11,862,000	3·47	15,195,000	4·00
Australia	4,957,000	1·45	11,877,000	3·12
New Zealand	23,607,000	6·90	28,569,000	7·51
Western Europe	6,949,000	2·03	6,621,000	1·74
Russia	5,165,000	1·51	—	—
Other countries	19,774,000	5·78	16,319,000	4·29
Total.....	342,198,000	100·00	380,236,000	100·00

The average annual crop harvested in Northeast India during the past three years was 498·88 million pounds, as compared with the 319·50 million pounds average produced in the three years before the war. This increase of 179·38 million pounds was not distributed evenly throughout the tea-growing districts. The proportionate increase in the Dooars and Terai and Cachar Districts was much greater than in Assam; in the Darjeeling area, the increase was relatively small.

The North Indian tea districts suffered from severe drought during the early months of the year, and this affected the first and second flush productions adversely in both quality and quantity. This blow was somewhat softened by almost ideal growing weather later in the year and the "rains" crop was large, although the quality of this tea in the majority of the districts was below average. This was particularly true of the Dooars and Darjeeling districts. In Darjeeling, the quality of the crop was the poorest in the past two decades.

During the year the London tea auctions were resumed. The end of bulk buying by the U.K. had a notable effect on the Calcutta market. One marked result was the great variation in the proportionate contributions by each district to the Calcutta offerings of export teas, as compared with the 1950 season and with the last complete prewar season.

The Calcutta market for North Indian teas opened strongly but sales fell off as the year went on. There appeared to be little demand for the large weight of thin-liquoring "rains" teas and the amount of stalk and fibre in the leaf became excessive. This resulted in the lowest level of prices since prewar years.

	Mark	1950-51 Export Average	1951-52 Export† Auction Price
Darjeeling	1	Rs. 2· 5· 7*	Rs. 1·12· 0
	2	2· 9· 7	1·14· 5
	3	2·13· 5	2· 1· 1
	4	2·14· 1	1·15·11
Assam	1	2· 1· 7	1·15· 3
	2	2· 2· 4	1·13· 5
	3	2· 2· 6	2· 2· 1
	4	2· 6· 0	1·12· 4
Dooars	1	1·13· 5	1· 9· 2
	2	1·13·10	1· 9· 5
	3	1·14· 3	1·11· 2
	4	1·14· 6	1· 9· 7
Cachar	1	1·10·11	1·10· 2
	2	1·11· 6	1· 7· 2
	3	1·13· 1	1· 7· 1
	4	1·13· 8	1· 9· 8

† Up to May 6, 1952.

* One rupee=approximately 21 cents Canadian.

Competition from Other Countries

The quality of indigenous tea chests (of which the market now uses 78 per cent) is showing some improvement but the standards need to be further raised. The handling of chests both on rail and river remained unsatisfactory and damage was high. Pilferage is still common, despite outwardly sound containers.

The general outlook for 1952 for the Calcutta market is good. The United Kingdom will require an extra 70 million pounds when the ration is increased and the U.S.A., Canada, Australia and New Zealand will probably buy larger quantities.

However, crops of India's competitors—such as Ceylon, Indonesia and Africa—have been increasing and the comparatively clean appearance of their leaf and the quality of their liquors, coupled with lower freight costs, make these tea-manufacturing countries dangerous competitors. Indian producers will have to work to maintain the liquor qualities and leaf appearances of their teas if they are to combat this serious competition.

—BRUCE I. RANKIN

Commercial Secretary for Canada.

BLEU Is a Major World Trader

This economic union ranked sixth among the world's trading nations in 1951 and the value of BLEU imports from Canada broke all records.

BRUSSELS—Despite its small size, the Belgo-Luxembourg Economic Union (BLEU)* is one of the great trading units of the world. In the 12 months' period September 1950 to September 1951, it ranked sixth in total world trade, following the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Canada and Germany. The Belgian Minister of External Commerce stated recently that nearly 40 per cent of Belgium's total production, valued at 350 billion francs, was exported.

The Belgo-Luxembourg Economic Union has always been an important export market for Canada, especially for wheat. Its importance has increased greatly since the war, both in the value and in the range of Canadian products purchased. In fact, the trade broke all records in 1951.

The main features of the Union's trade in 1951 were:

- Huge increases in both imports and exports; both climbed to record levels.
- An overall favourable balance of trade, especially with other European countries. (One result was to make BLEU an embarrassingly large creditor in the European Payments Union.)
- A series of measures applied to imports and exports by the Government, beginning in September, in an effort to correct the EPU situation.
- The continuing large deficit in trade with the dollar area.
- The Union's very favourable terms of trade because prices of its imported raw materials, such as wool, declined and prices of many of its major exports, notably steel, remained high.

Trade Values

According to Belgo-Luxembourg trade statistics, the import tonnage (rounded) in 1951 was 38 million metric tons, as against 30 million in 1950. The export tonnage was 20 million tons in 1951 compared with 16 million in 1950. The greater part of these large tonnages move through the port of Antwerp, one reason why it is one of the world's leading ports.

The table below shows the value of exports and imports in 1951 as compared with earlier years. In terms of dollars they were, roughly, \$2.7 billion and \$2.5 billion respectively. The excess of exports over imports in 1951 is most unusual. Traditionally, the Union has a deficit on merchandise account which is offset by invisible export items.

* Belgium and the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg began their economic union in 1922. Their imports and exports are recorded in common and they have a common gold reserve and foreign exchange control. Fifty Belgian francs equal approximately one Canadian dollar.—Editor.

BLEU's large surplus in trade with Europe last year, 22 billion francs (\$440 million), and its large deficit, 13 billion francs (\$260 million) with North, Central and South America repeats the pattern that the Union's trade has always followed. The industry of Belgium and Luxembourg is essentially a transforming one. Foodstuffs and raw materials are imported, largely from America, and semi-finished and finished goods are exported, largely to Europe. The difficulty is that earnings from surplus sales to European countries and their overseas territories are no longer freely convertible into dollars to cover the deficit trade balance with America.

External Trade of BLEU

(billions of Belg'an francs)

Period	Imports	Exports	Balance	Percentage of imports covered by exports
1936-38 (average)	24.2	22.3	- 1.9	92
1947	85.5	61.6	-23.9	72
1948	87.5	74.1	-13.4	85
1949	81.7	79.8	- 1.9	98
1950	96.4	81.4	-14.5	85
1951	127.2	132.6	+ 5.4	104

Principal Suppliers

The ten leading BLEU suppliers in 1951, providing 75 per cent of the Union's imports, were: the United States, the Netherlands, France, Western Germany, the United Kingdom, Belgian Congo, Australia, Canada, Sweden and Switzerland. The U.S., ranking first as it has each year since the war, supplied 15.3 per cent of the total. The Netherlands displaced France in second place, and Germany replaced the U.K. in fourth place. A feature of the year was the great increase, 43 per cent, in Germany's exports to BLEU. German competition has become increasingly strong in the Belgian market over the past two years, and German goods of all kinds are now seen everywhere and at extremely competitive prices. The increase of 64 per cent in the figure for Sweden was the result, primarily, of the much higher prices for pulp which prevailed throughout the year.

Canada rose from ninth place in 1950 to eighth in 1951 and supplied 2.9 per cent of the total value of the Union's imports. The increase in Canada's sales was chiefly due to much larger exports of barley, oats, rye, wheat, wood pulp, passenger cars, silver bullion, asbestos, lead, zinc, aluminum, special steels, antibiotics, washing machines, and synthetic rubber.

Principal Imports

The major commodity groups imported by BLEU in 1951, in order of importance, were: textiles (especially cotton and wool); mineral products (especially iron ore and non-ferrous ores and concentrates); agricultural products (especially wheat and other cereals). These three groups alone accounted for approximately half of all imports.

BLEU is one of the most important world importers of cereals. Total imports of cereals in 1951 were valued at 7.5 billion francs, compared with 5.5 billion francs in 1950 and an average of 2½ billion francs in the immediate prewar years. Imports of wheat fell in the postwar period, reflecting the decline in bread consumption—the result of improved living

standards in Belgium and Luxembourg and the consequent shift to a wider variety of other foods. In 1914 the consumption of bread was 550 grammes per person per day. It fell to 450 in 1940 and now equals only 275 grammes.

Belgium has only one raw material of importance, coal. Luxembourg has only one, iron ore. Imports of raw materials and especially of minerals, metals and textile raw materials, therefore, bulk large in their trade.

Major Markets

BLEU's ten leading export markets last year, in order of importance, were: the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, France (plus the Saar), the United States, Western Germany, Belgian Congo, Sweden, Switzerland, Australia and Italy. Canada does not appear among these top ten. She ranked sixteenth among the Union's export markets in 1951, compared with thirteenth in 1950, and accounted for 1.4 per cent of its total exports against 1.3 per cent in 1950.

The outstanding change in the export trade last year, compared with 1950, was the huge increase in exports to the United Kingdom and France. The former doubled and the latter nearly doubled. This was the principal reason for Belgium's large surplus position in EPU. The large increase in exports to Australia was also notable. As a member of the sterling area, Australia is indirectly involved in EPU.

Three commodity groups accounted for nearly 70 per cent of all exports in 1951—metallurgical products, of which iron and steel and steel products were most important; textile products, and chemicals.

Trade with Canada

BLEU was Canada's third most important market in 1951. Canadian statistics show that exports to Belgium in 1951 totalled \$94 million, a rise of nearly 50 per cent over the \$66 million in 1950.

When the restrictions on imports into BLEU from the dollar area were imposed in September 1951 it was hoped they would remain in force only temporarily. There is still no indication that they will be removed entirely in the immediate future. However, a quota system was introduced in 1952, under which limited amounts of certain restricted dollar goods may enter the Union. Although the list of products for which licences are refused is not made public, these products accounted, as nearly as can be estimated, for five per cent or less of total Canadian exports to Belgium in 1951. That is, about 95 per cent of Canadian trade was unaffected by the restrictions.

In 1951 BLEU became Canada's eighth most important supplier, providing goods to the value of \$39 million, a 70 per cent increase over the \$23 million in 1951. Those countries, other than the United States and the United Kingdom, which exceeded the Union in importance all did so because of one or two products—petroleum from Venezuela, tea and rubber from Malaya, wool and sugar from Australia, coffee and cotton from Brazil, and tea and jute from India. In the range of products supplied, Belgium was probably only surpassed by the United States and the United Kingdom.

The Belgian Government and Belgian industry are making a special effort to increase exports to Canada this year. There was a large Belgian representation at the Canadian International Trade Fair. A number of the Belgian manufacturers were showing their products for the first time and were looking for suitable Canadian agents.

The following table shows the 16 principal Canadian exports to Belgium in 1951 as compared with 1950, in the order of their importance:

Principal Canadian Exports to BLEU

(DBS figures)

	1951 (Millions of Dollars)	1950
Wheat	\$35,800	\$26,900
Barley	16,634	2,036
Flaxseed	6,241	8,650
Oats	4,713	813
Motor vehicles (passenger cars, trucks)	3,148	3
Zinc (in ore, spelter and scrap)	3,096	3,966
Asbestos (including fibres and waste)	2,964	1,877
Rye	2,934	915
Lead (in ore and pigs)	2,678	4,103
Wood pulp	2,614	376
Canned salmon	1,663	3,098
Rubber tires	1,128	793
Drugs and chemicals (including synthetic rubber) ..	978	743
Lumber	835	955
Special steel	765	581
Silver in bullion	735	0

The table reveals that, to a great extent, Canada's export trade to Belgium consists of bulk foodstuffs and primary industrial raw materials. Nevertheless, semi-finished products have an established place and manufactured products and processed foods have been gaining in importance.

Unfortunately, some of these Canadian products (and others whose value in 1951 was under \$100 thousand) which had won, or were winning, a place for themselves in the Belgian market are vulnerable to import restrictions. Examples are: milk powder, evaporated milk, whisky, gin, leather, nylon hosiery, agricultural machinery, agricultural implements, gas stoves, oil stoves and lanterns, valves, optical lenses, sporting goods, toys and a considerable number of sundry articles ranging from paper cups to combs.

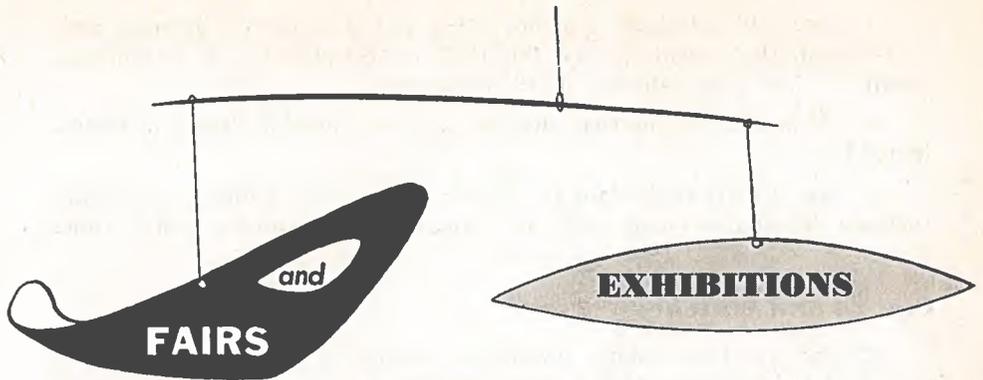
Exports to Canada

Detailed Canadian figures of imports from Belgium are not yet available in Brussels. The following table, however, shows the ten principal exports to Canada from Belgium in 1951 according to the Belgian Statistical Institute, in order of value.

Belgian Exports to Canada, 1951

	Thousands of kgs.	Millions of Belgian Francs
Iron and steel, forged or hot-rolled in special profiles	71,905	387·4
Iron and steel, forged or hot-rolled, of circular, square or rectangular section	39,530	207·3
Tin	838	121·0
Sheet iron or sheet steel, non-specified	18,128	117·1
Precious and semi-precious stones	2,857,023	112·6
Carpets, table covers and tapestries	624	110·0
Hoop iron and steel	15,713	95·0
Sheet glass	11,257	66·5
Glass in sheets or in plates	3,358	50·2
Portland cement	57,650	37·8

—BRUCE A. MACDONALD
Commercial Counsellor for Canada.



Machine Tools and Their Makers

Once every four years, Olympia, in London, becomes the scene of an International Machine Tool Exhibition. Scheduled for this autumn, the Exhibition will open on September 17 and close on October 4.

Every country which buys machine tools expects to send representatives and the tools on display will run the gamut from very small to giants weighing several tons. Altogether, the Exhibition will cover over 500 thousand square feet. The Machine Tool Trades Association, Victoria House, Southampton Row, London, W.C. 1, organizes the show and can supply any desired information.

The Canadian Government is sending an exhibit and will have experts on hand to answer questions about the Canadian market for machine tools.

“Comptoir Suisse”

Lausanne, September 13-28, will be the locale of the 33rd Swiss National Autumn Fair, the “Comptoir Suisse.” Some 2,250 exhibitors will display products from Swiss agriculture, industry, commerce, and the manual arts. A special pavilion will house exhibits from the Belgian Congo and Tunisia, exhibits stressing Switzerland’s relations with these countries.

The Fair will cover an area of a million square feet, with the displays classified in 21 different departments. Concessions offered to overseas visitors include reduced rates on the Swiss railroads and special admission tickets to the Fair itself. Any Swiss Consulate will supply further information.

Food Fashions

Ration-weary Britishers sighed at the exhibits at the British Food Fair last month—and enjoyed the free samples of everything from cheese to porridge. Most popular among the equipment displays:

- A model camping site, demonstrating lightweight equipment and compressed foods for campers and trailer travellers.

- A combined teapot and hot water jug, designed to prevent waste of tea and, theoretically, save the U.K. an estimated £3 million as a result. It has been patented in 25 countries.
- A new machine that detects the presence of "foreign bodies" in food.
- An electric cooker for the blind, with a control unit that operates through differently toned bells, an indicator button, and a braille timer.

Clocks and Watches

Clocks, watches, cutlery, jewellery—makers or buyers of these products will be gathering at Frankfurt am Main next month to attend the Special Watch, Clock and Jewellery Fair. The dates: September 19 to 22; the place: the city's Fair Grounds.

Held every year since 1949, this Fair brings out exhibits from practically the entire German watch and clock industry. The Swiss are sponsoring a collective exhibition and, in addition, certain Swiss firms such as Rolex and Jaeger-Le Coultre are taking space individually. Special features will include demonstrations of jewellery-making processes and of the making of cutlery.

United Kingdom Fairs

The following British Fairs of possible interest to Canadians are scheduled for the fall months. (See also list of European fairs in *Foreign Trade* of July 12.)

International Machine Tool Exhibition, Olympia, London, Sept. 17-Oct. 4.

International Commercial Motor Transport Exhibition, Earls Court, London, Sept. 26-Oct. 4.

Chemists' Exhibition, Horticultural Hall, London, Sept. 29-Oct. 2.

Motor Show, Earls Court, London, Oct. 22-Nov. 1.

Business Efficiency Exhibition, Kelvin Hall, Glasgow, Nov. 4-14.

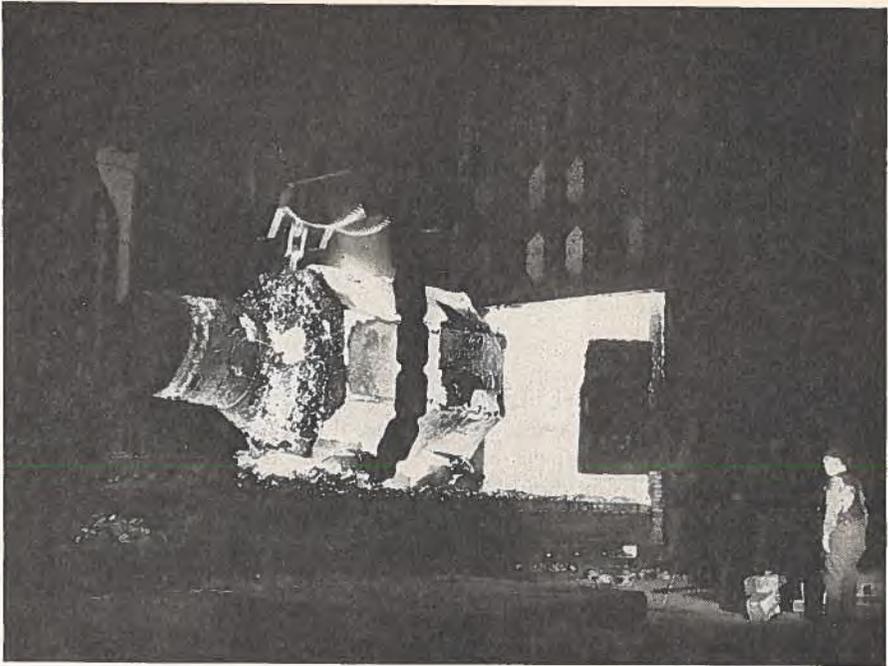
Shoe and Leather Fair, Earls Court, London, Nov. 17-21.

Brewers' Exhibition, Olympia, London, Nov. 24-28.

TRANSPORTATION

The Transportation and Communications Division of the Department of Trade and Commerce will be glad to supply shippers and others interested with information on water, rail, air and road transport services to and from Canada.

The Division has compiled a list of the principal Canadian trade routes and of the steamship companies maintaining services on them. To obtain this list and any further help with international transportation problems, write to the Director, Transportation and Communications Division, Department of Trade and Commerce, Ottawa.



—U.K. Information Office

British Steel in 1952

LONDON—World steel production rose in 1951 by an estimated 11 per cent to a total of 206 million tons. But in the same period, United Kingdom output actually declined from 16·29 million tons in 1950 to 15·64 million tons in 1951. This contraction was not the consequence of a lower demand but of difficulties over raw material supplies—particularly scrap. These difficulties still exist and production for the first four months of 1952 was at the rate of 15·95 million tons for a full year, compared with a rate of 16·5 million tons in the first four months of 1951.

The position is, however, expected to improve during the rest of the year and total production should exceed that of 1951. Scrap supplies are still short but pig iron production is mounting and is expected to reach 10½ million tons for the full year. The blast furnace expansion program for 1952 involves the completion of six new furnaces and by mid-1953 these should be producing additional pig iron at a rate of 1½ million tons a year.

Iron Ore Supplies

Iron ore requirements appear to be covered. The table on page 14 shows the principal foreign sources for the first quarter of 1952.

Native iron ore sources supplied 14·6 million tons in 1951. Deliveries in the first quarter of 1952 were at the rate of 15·5 million tons for a full year.

U.K. Iron Ore Imports

Weekly average for first quarter 1952
(in thousands of tons)

Sweden	264.9
Sierra Leone	64.8
Spain	56.0
Tunis	38.5
France	34.7
Spanish North Africa	27.8
Morocco	25.0
Canada	10.7
Other	167.4
Total.....	689.8

Domestic Supply Position

The production of steel in the United Kingdom is inadequate to meet unrestricted domestic demands. Arrangements have been made to import steel from a number of sources and to cut down on exports. As a result, the home supply position should be at least as good, and probably better, than it was in 1951.

On the import side, the figures for the first quarter were at an annual rate of 1.5 million tons, compared with total imports in 1951 of 681 thousand tons. The following table shows the monthly average imports of steel into the United Kingdom for the first quarter of 1952, with corresponding figures for 1951:

U.K. Monthly Average Steel Imports

(in thousands of tons)

<i>Country of Origin</i>	1951	1952
France	21.6	23.5
Belgium	9.5	22.7
U.S.A.	3.5	20.9
Luxembourg	7.2	13.0
Netherlands	4.2	11.5
Germany	1.2	8.1
Canada	4.0	4.8
Other	5.6	25.4
Total.....	56.8	129.9

A breakdown of the imports shows that the largest single purchase on a tonnage basis was pig iron (31,000 tons a month), followed by plates and sheets (16,000 tons), wire rods (13,700 tons), ingots (11,000 tons), and ferro-alloys (10,200 tons). Purchases from Canada consisted largely of electric billets. Ferro-alloy imports from Canada in the quarter amounted to 13,130 tons, valued at £1,123,808.

Steel Exports

The planned reduction in exports from the United Kingdom brought the first quarter shipments down to 661,200 tons from 705,300 tons for the same period of 1951. Australia continued to be the largest outlet, taking 96,300 tons, followed by Canada (45,300 tons), South Africa (37,800 tons), and New Zealand (33,300 tons). A comparison of steel import and export prices suggests that in a number of cases the United Kingdom pays more for the steel she buys than she receives for the steel she sells.

British steel prices have been generally competitive in postwar years. A comparison of the home trade steel prices of the principal steel-producing countries in February 1952 reveals that United Kingdom prices were the lowest in every main category. In general, export quotations were equally competitive. Lately, however, there has been a softening of continental export prices which on occasion have fallen below United Kingdom prices. In the long run, however, the British prices should remain competitive.

Productivity in the United Kingdom steel industry has shown a progressive advance since the war until it is now about 50 per cent above the 1938 level. Plant modernization, while not complete, has been extensive and leaves the industry in a strong position to meet the future, if raw material difficulties can be overcome.

—R. P. BOWER

Commercial Counsellor for Canada.

United States Plans Increased Newsprint Production

NEW YORK—The United States Department of Commerce, concerned about newsprint supply, is undertaking a long-range program to expand domestic newsprint production. New production in the U.S., the Department feels, would ease the newsprint shortage and lessen the upward pressure on newsprint prices.

The Commerce Department will consider a higher objective for newsprint expansion than the current one of only 494 thousand tons over January 1, 1951, levels. Expansion programs approved so far by the Defence Production Administration will raise annual production by 375 thousand tons—120 thousand tons short of the present goal. Facilities to make up this tonnage are still lacking.

Expansion Program

In its expansion program the Department proposes to:

- Examine the obstacles which have retarded the expansion of newsprint production.
- Consult with producers and potential producers, including those interested in new techniques and processes, in an effort to obtain new production facilities.
- Appraise the value of new techniques and processes in co-operation with the Bureau of Standards and other laboratories, and make tests of these technical innovations.
- Discuss production problems with publishers and publishing groups.
- Co-ordinate its efforts with those of other government agencies in financing priorities, amortizations, etc., for new newsprint production.

Consumption of newsprint in May this year by 525 U.S. newspapers was 0·2 per cent more than in the same month of 1951. In the first five months of this year, consumption increased by 0·01 per cent. The table below compares this year with pulp prices fall 1950 and 1951.

	1952	1951	1950
	(tons)	(tons)	(tons)
January	345,313	345,552	345,093
February	348,630	336,568	333,159
March	399,258	394,387	396,923
April	393,470	410,723	403,801
May	404,071	403,233	401,922

Pulp Prices Fall

Canadian, Swedish and Norwegian prices for pulp were recently cut by \$40 to \$20 a ton to bring them in line with U.S. prices. Two types of wood pulp offered by foreign mills actually undercut the domestic price. However, United States mills have not yet committed themselves on third-quarter prices for these grades.

U.S. producers have issued third-quarter contract prices for three types of pulp. As the trade expected, Southern kraft mills were the first to cut prices. Unbleached Southern kraft is being offered at \$10 a ton, \$25 under the last established price level. Foreign mills do not make a pulp comparable to this grade.

Prices for bleached sulphate, \$145 a ton, and bleached sulphite, \$140 a ton, are unchanged from the second quarter. Swedish and Norwegian mills have met the price for both grades, while Canadian producers have met the price for bleached sulphite only. Canadian bleached sulphate is about \$5 a ton higher than the U.S. price.

Foreign mills have gone under the domestic levels on both unbleached Northern sulphate and unbleached sulphite, two of the grades on which U.S. mills have not yet committed themselves. Swedish mills are offering unbleached sulphite at \$125-130 a ton, compared with the second-quarter domestic price of \$132.50 a ton. Norwegian mills have followed the Swedish move, but Canadian producers have not yet announced prices on this grade.

The Canadians have taken the lead on unbleached Northern sulphate, however, offering it at \$100 a ton, about \$40 under second-quarter domestic prices for this grade. Swedish and Norwegian mills are offering the same type of pulp for \$125 a ton, \$15 below domestic levels.

Most sources believe U.S. mills will soon meet the foreign competition for these grades.

U.S. Pulp and Paper Prices

(Domestic mill contract prices, delivered, with varying freight allowances)

PULP

(Delivered prices)

	Per short ton
Sulphite, domestic	
Bleached	\$140·00
Unbleached	132·50
Sulphate, domestic	
Bleached	145·00
Unbleached, Northern	140·00
Unbleached, Southern	100·00
Groundwood	92·50
Soda	140·00

PAPER

(delivered New York)

Newsprint	
Rolls, per ton	\$115-00-126-00
Sheets	131-00
Kraft—per cwt. 40-lb. basis, f.o.b. mills	
Superstandard wrapping	10-50
No. 1 wrapping	9-50
Standard wrapping	8-00
Standard bag	8-00
Tissues, per ream	
White No. 1	1-95- 2-05
White No. 1½	1-75
White No. 2	1-40- 1-50
Kraft	1-80- 2-00
Reg. Jute M.F. 40-lb. sheets	19-50
Book, per cwt.	
distributors' resale price, case	
B. grade E.F.	17-40- 18-15
Process-coated	18-40- 18-90
No. 1 glossy coated	23-90- 24-65
No. 2 glossy coated	22-15- 23-40
No. 2 offset.....	18-65- 19-90
Bond—per cwt. carton lots	
No. 1 sulphite 20 lbs.	19-00- 20-50
25 per cent rag 20 lbs.	31-65- 33-00
Paperboard, per ton	
Plain chip	105-00

WASTE PAPER

(f.o.b. New York)

Packers' price, carload lots	
No. 1 mixed	\$ 5-00- 6-00
No. 1 news	8-00- 10-00
No. 1 hard white shavings	100-00-110-00
No. 1 soft white shavings	90-00-100-00
No. 1 soft white (one cut)	110-00-120-00
Mixed books	15-00
No. 1 hard white cuttings	125-00-130-00
No. 1 fly leaf shavings	20-00- 25-00

—A. E. BRYAN

Deputy Consul General of Canada and Trade Commissioner.

Trade Commissioners on Tour

TO familiarize themselves with conditions in this country and the special requirements of businessmen, Canadian Trade Commissioners return to Canada periodically. Exporters and importers are invited to discuss with the Trade Commissioner the markets and sources of supply in his territory.

F. H. Palmer, Consul General of Canada and Trade Commissioner in Manila, Philippines, began a tour of Canada on June 15; will visit the following cities in the next six weeks:

Montreal—Sept. 8-19

Ottawa—Sept. 20-23

Toronto—Sept. 24-Oct. 1

Businessmen may get in touch with Mr. Palmer at the Board of Trade in Montreal, Department of Trade and Commerce in Ottawa, and the Canadian Manufacturers' Association offices in Toronto.

Commodity Notes

AUSTRALIA

Sulphuric Acid—According to a recent press statement, a new contact sulphuric acid plant, to cost about £1,250,000 and have a yearly capacity of approximately 35 thousand tons of acid, is to be erected by Sulphide Corporation Pty. Ltd., a subsidiary of Consolidated Zinc Corporation Ltd. The plant will be erected at the corporation's works at Cockle Creek, near Newcastle, N.S.W.

The present superphosphate plant will be modified and enlarged and, when completed, the new works will provide increased supplies of acid and of superphosphate for important industries in the Newcastle area—Melbourne, July 17.

BRAZIL

Rolled Steel—Brazil produced 702,418 metric tons of rolled steel in 1951, valued at Cr\$2,493,457,000, according to statistics released by the Ministry of Agriculture—Rio de Janeiro, July 30.

CHILE

Coal—The Minister of Economy and Commerce has been approached on the need for importing 50 thousand tons of coal for consumption during the rest of the year. During the first six months of 1952, 18 thousand tons have been imported from the United States. This has not met the normal demands of industry, the gas company and the state railways—Santiago, July 15.

GREECE

Wheat—For the first time since the beginning of World War II, the Greek Government has purchased Canadian wheat. On June 24, 1952, an adjudication was held simultaneously in Athens and in Ottawa for the procurement of 37 thousand metric tons of grade No. 5 wheat. According to the results of this adjudication, half of the quantity was purchased for shipment via the St. Lawrence during the second half of July, and the other half for shipment via Churchill during the second half of August—Athens, July 15.

ITALY

Automobiles—The Italian Automobile Industry produced 145,533 units in 1951, an increase of 13·8 per cent over the 1950 production of 127,847. The peak month in each year was July (14,860 against 12,202 in 1950), while the lowest month was August (7,973 against 6,213 in 1950). In the last two months of 1951, production was lower as compared with the monthly average (about 13,000).

Since the war, Italy's position as an exporter of motor vehicles has steadily improved, with 1951 the record year to date. Some 32,250 units

were exported against 21,905 in 1950, an increase of 47.2 per cent. Main markets were Germany, Switzerland, Austria, Australia, and Sweden—Rome, July 19.

NORTHERN RHODESIA

Copper—Primarily because of increasing copper exports, Northern Rhodesia continues to accumulate record trade balances. The value of the territory's exports, to which copper contributed 93 per cent, reached nearly £21 million during the first quarter of 1952. With only a slight increase in imports, the favourable balance during the first quarter of this year exceeded £12 million, compared with £6.8 million during the same months of 1951—Cape Town, July 4.

SOUTH AFRICA

Gold—Current reports by the Transvaal Chamber of Mines summarize the situation in the gold mining industry as: general shortage of men, materials and services; operations below capacity; steeply rising production costs with an inevitable decline in profits; dividends adversely affected by increasing rates of taxation. Figures for the first five months of 1952 are: working revenue, £60 million (£56.5 million in the same period of 1951); working costs, £42 million (£37.3 million); working profits, £16 million (£19.1 million)—Cape Town, July 4.

SWEDEN

Iron Ore—Swedish iron ore exports have not yet been hit by the severe decline which has affected most raw materials. Both the export volume and the price per ton are increasing.

Last year's exports of iron ore amounted to nearly 15 million tons which, at an average price of Kr. 34.00 per ton, represented five per cent of Sweden's total exports. An even higher volume of exports is expected for 1952. This, and a sharp increase in the price per ton (Kr. 56.00 in April 1952), will make it even more important to Swedish foreign trade. Iron ore exports in the first four months of 1952 amounted to just over four million tons. Chief markets are Germany, the United Kingdom, and the United States. Some ore goes to Poland as barter for coal—Stockholm, July 24.

UNITED STATES

Petro-Chemicals—Crude chemical production from petroleum and natural gas in the United States in 1951 reached a new high of 8,505 million lbs. compared with 6,935 million lbs. in 1950. Included in these figures are aromatics and naphthenes and aliphatic hydrocarbons, benzene, toluene, xylene, cresylic acid, naphthenic acid, ethane and ethylene, propane, and butadiene. Sales of these products in 1951 totalled 5,150 million lbs. valued at \$287 million, compared with 4,057 million lbs. valued at \$114 million in 1950—Washington, D.C., July 18.

General Notes

CHILE

Brazil-Chile Trade—A representative of the Brazilian Rural Confederation has expressed interest in increasing trade with Chile, particularly in minerals, barley, preserves, apples and wine. Brazil would be interested in increasing exports of bananas to Chile and has already made a first shipment of 50,000 hands. Ocean freights will have to be considered, because they are one of the principal reasons for reduced trade between the two countries—Santiago, July 12.

FINLAND

Wood Products Industry—According to a recent statement by the Finnish Wood Products Industry, all factories in the cellulose branch will have to close down for at least two months because of reduced sales. All sawmills are to close for an unstipulated period because the timber yards are full. It is expected that there will be little lumbering activity in the forests next winter because of heavy stocks—Stockholm, July 24.

HONG KONG

Japan Seeks Trade in Hong Kong—Japanese businessmen are taking a keen interest in Hong Kong. During the past two months many representatives of leading Japanese firms have made business trips to the Colony to survey trade prospects. Japanese vessels are again calling at Hong Kong harbour. Current press reports indicate that a joint Sino-Japanese bank for Hong Kong is being considered. Latest advice is that the Japanese Government will establish a Consulate General in Hong Kong some time in August. In current trade returns of the Colony, Japan features as an important trading partner, ranking after China, Malaya and the United Kingdom—Hong Kong, June 30.

New Cable from Manila—The Philippines Government has given final approval to the proposal of the Eastern Extension, Australasia and China Telegraph Company, Limited, to construct, maintain and operate a new submarine cable connecting Manila with Hong Kong. The laying of the cable is expected to begin immediately—Hong Kong, June 30.

ITALY

Electrical Production—Electrical production in Italy in 1951 reflected the rapid advance in electrical installations since the end of the war. A total of 24,680 million k.w.h. was produced in the first ten months of the year, as compared with 15,544 million in the whole of 1938, an advance of some 78 per cent.

This improvement stems from favourable water conditions and the coming into operation of many new plants, nine-tenths of which are hydro-electric and the remainder thermo-electric. Further increases in installations are anticipated—Rome, July 19.

NORTHERN RHODESIA

Balance of Trade—Thanks to the boom in copper prices, Northern Rhodesia continues to establish record trade balances. During the first four months of 1952 the territory's favourable balance of trade increased by over £ 16 million. According to the latest official statistics, Northern Rhodesia's imports from January to April totalled £ 11,298,000. Exports, of which copper accounts for 93 per cent of the value, soared to £ 27,377,000 during the same period—Johannesburg, July 18.

SOUTHERN RHODESIA

World Bank Mission—A Mission from the International Bank arrived in Salisbury recently to examine the progress made since a similar visit last year.

The three-man mission will investigate an application by the Northern Rhodesian Government for a loan (believed to be about £ 8 million) for the construction of new railway lines linking the Rhodesias with the coast. Last February the World Bank approved a loan of £ 10 million to Southern Rhodesia for electrical development—Johannesburg, July 19.

TAIWAN

Bank of Taiwan—The Bank of Taiwan is the leading financial institution in Taiwan and virtually the only commercial bank. It definitely operates as a normal trading bank, handling all kinds of general banking business, but it is also to all intents and purposes the Central Bank of Taiwan, for it acts as fiscal agent of the Government and handles the note issue. In addition, it alone is authorized to handle the financing of Taiwan's foreign trade, which it regulates for the Government by operating the licensing of all imports and exports. It also enjoys a monopoly of the banking business of the government agencies and industries—Hong Kong, June 27.

UNITED KINGDOM

Overseas Trade—In June, U.K. exports totalled £ 185 million. Compared with May (a longer working month by four days) this was a reduction of 18 per cent but the shorter working period should have meant a reduction of only 15 per cent.

Imports in June (£ 276.7 million) were down by 14 per cent from the May total. The excess of imports over exports for the month was £ 83.4 million, compared with £ 84.8 million in May. Exports to the United States in June were £ 11.6 million, against £ 13.5 million in May. Exports to Canada fell to £ 9.5 million from £ 11.2 million—London, July 14.

Trade and Tariff Regulations

Republic of Ireland Controls Imports

Dublin, July 24—FTS—By orders of the Republic of Ireland issued under the Control of Imports Acts 1934 and 1937, further quotas and quota periods have been announced. They are:

- Inner tubes for bicycle tires: 13 thousand articles, as against 18 thousand articles for the previous six months.
- Inner tubes for motor vehicle tires: 3,000 articles, as against 7,000 articles for the previous six months.
- Pneumatic tires for bicycles: 19 thousand articles, as against 26 thousand for the previous six months.
- Pneumatic tires for motor vehicles: 3,500 articles, as against 10 thousand for the previous six months.

The period fixed in all these cases is from August 1, 1952, to January 31, 1953.

Customs Duties in Republic of Ireland

Dublin, July 25—FTS—Under the following Orders, the Government of the Republic of Ireland has announced new and revised import customs duties as follows:—

Under Emergency Imposition of Duties (No. 278) (Venetian Blinds) Order, 1952, a duty of $37\frac{1}{2}$ per cent ad valorem full rate and 25 per cent ad valorem preferential rate has been placed on imports of venetian blinds and parts as and from June 23, 1952.

Emergency Imposition of Duties (No. 279) (Woven Labels) Order, 1952, extends the scope of the duty mentioned at Irish Tariff Reference No. 133 to all labels of woven material with letters or designs either woven or printed thereon, from June 24, 1952. Heretofore this duty only applied to labels that had a design or number printed on them. A flat rate of $33\frac{1}{2}$ per cent ad valorem applied.

Emergency Imposition of Duties (No. 280) (Lampshades) Order 1952, imposes a duty of 50 per cent ad valorem full rate and $33\frac{1}{2}$ per cent ad valorem preferential rate on imports of certain plastic lampshades as and from June 24, 1952.

Emergency Imposition of Duties (No. 281) (Artificial Silk Piece Goods) Order, 1952, extends the scope of the existing customs duty of 50 per cent ad valorem full rate, $33\frac{1}{2}$ per cent ad valorem preferential rate now on artificial silk piece goods, to include the following:—spun rayon cloths (other than printed cloths), cloths which are less than $2\frac{1}{2}$ ozs. in weight per square yard, and cloths which are patterned in colour and which are 60 inches and over in width. This duty became effective from June 24, 1952.

Emergency Imposition of Duties (No. 282) (Dolls' Clothing and Components) Order 1952, imposes as and from July 4, 1952, a customs duty of 75 per cent ad valorem full rate; 50 per cent ad valorem preferential rate on component parts of and clothing for dolls of all descriptions.

Emergency Imposition of Duties (No. 283) (Glue, Gelatine and Size) Order 1952, increases the import customs duty on glue, gelatine and size to 75 per cent ad valorem full rate; 50 per cent ad valorem preferential rate, as and from July 4, 1952.

Emergency Imposition of Duties (No. 284) (Abrasives) Order 1952 scales down the import duty from July 18, 1952, on certain abrasives as mentioned at Tariff Reference No. 1/3 to 30 per cent ad valorem full rate; Canada and United Kingdom, 20 per cent ad valorem; other Commonwealth countries, 30 per cent ad valorem.

Greece Increases Certain Tariff Coefficients for Currency Conversion

Athens, July 28—FTS—Greece has increased the coefficients for converting specific rates of duty on certain commodities by virtue of a Cabinet decision effective July 11, 1952. Rates of duty are expressed in the Greek customs tariff in metallic drachmae. These are converted into actual currency by means of coefficients varying according to commodity, which are also listed in the tariff. An increase in the coefficient of conversion is therefore equivalent to an increase in the rate of duty.

Among the items affected, the following may be of interest to Canada (the previous and new coefficients respectively being shown in parentheses): raw materials for papermaking, beeswax, and electric heating appliances (36 and 40); needles (25 and 40); unwrought iron and sheet iron (22 and 40); sawn lumber (15 to 25 and 30); certain chemicals (20 and 30), paper and board (15 to 25 and 30).

Exporters may obtain information on the effect of the changes on specified goods by writing to the Foreign Tariffs Division, Department of Trade and Commerce, Ottawa.

British Guiana Establishes Quotas for Medicines

Quotas holders in British Guiana have been notified that quotas for the import of limited quantities of patent and proprietary medicines have been established.

These quotas, issued as from July 3, are charged against the ordinary dollar programs and are therefore additional to imports covered by the Trade Liberalization Plan.

Commonwealth Gift Centre Closes

London, July 31—FTS—The Government announces that it has been decided to close the Commonwealth Gift Centre on October 31. After that date, the Ministry of Food will no longer be able to receive bulk gifts of food for general distribution or to pay the charges which it has hitherto borne—the cost of sea freight and inland carriage to the point of distribution.

The announcement, issued by the Ministry of Food, expresses the Government's gratitude for the vast number of food gifts received at the Centre since it opened in 1942. Their value has reached a total of nearly

£ 3,500,000. The Centre was set up under a different name for the purpose of distributing, with the help of local authorities, schools, and many national organizations, the large quantity of food sent in bulk to the Ministry by donors all over the world.

This decision affects only bulk food gifts the distribution of which has been the responsibility of the Ministry. The Government does not in any way wish to discourage the flow of parcels being sent direct to individual recipients from individual donors overseas.

Brazilian Imports from Hard Currency Countries

Rio de Janiero, August 1—FTS—The Bank of Brazil has issued a new list of commodities for which licence applications will be considered for imports into Brazil payable in dollars during the next six months. The list dated April 30, 1951, is hereby cancelled so that only a very restricted group of highly essential items remain as possible dollar imports.

Full details of the new list may be obtained by writing to the International Trade Relations Branch.

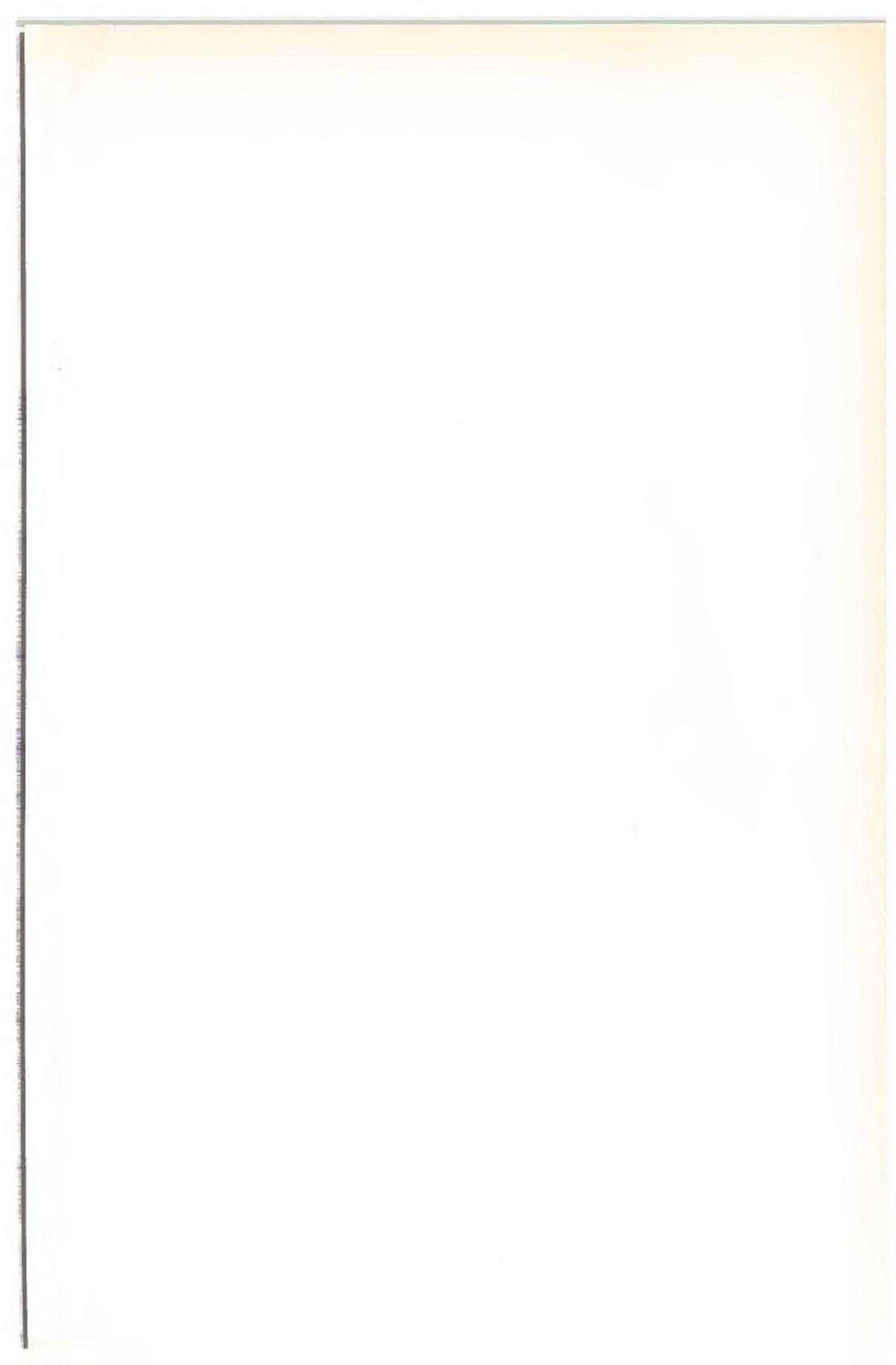
Venezuela Increases Cotton Textiles Quota

Caracas, July 30—FTS—The Venezuelan import quota for cotton textiles has been increased from three million kilos to 3½ million kilos for the year ending December 31, 1952. This additional amount has been authorized to avoid an anticipated shortage of materials in the national clothing industry.

Importers with previous pattern of trade are allocated 2,250,000 kilos of the total and the remainder will be purchased directly by the clothing manufacturers. A further additional quota may again be granted towards the end of the year should it be considered necessary.

Ireland Controls Imports of Mechanically Propelled Vehicles

Dublin, July 24—FTS—The Government of the Republic of Ireland has, under the Control of Imports Act 1934 and 1937, made an order entitled Control of Imports (Quota No. 47, First Period) (Road Vehicles) Order, 1952. This order announces the first import quota period from July 8, 1952 to December 31, 1952, for certain mechanically propelled road vehicles and sets the number at 40. (See also *Foreign Trade* of June 14, page 761.)



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