

General Explanations Regarding Canadian Trade Statistics.—External trade statistics are derived by recording the physical movement of goods outwards or inwards across the frontiers or through ocean ports and the valuations placed upon them at the time of movement. Such statistics cannot take cognizance of the complex financial transactions involved in this physical movement of goods, which transactions may take place prior to or subsequent to the actual shipment (although in investigating the balance of international payments, as in Part III of this Chapter, such financial transactions are the sole consideration). Certain problems of procedure arise in recording trade statistics and it is necessary to explain these.

For the correct interpretation of the statistics of external trade, it is necessary that the following definitions and explanations of terms used, as well as certain features of the statistics that necessitate adjustments to the external trade figures, be carefully kept in mind, if the true position of trade in relation to the total of Canada's international transactions is to be understood.

Quantities and Values.—In all tables of imports and exports, the quantities and values are based upon the declarations of importers (import entries) and exporters (export entries), as subsequently checked by customs officials.

Imports: Valuation.—"Imports" means imports entered for consumption. "Entered for consumption" does not necessarily imply that the goods have been actually consumed in Canada, but that they have passed into the possession of the importer and that duty has been paid on that portion liable for duty.

Under the main provisions of the law, the value of merchandise imported into Canada is the fair market value or price thereof when sold for home consumption in the principal markets of the country from which, and at the time when, said merchandise was exported directly to Canada; but the value shall not be less than the actual cost of production at the time of shipment plus a reasonable advance for cost of selling and profit. (See Sects. 35 to 45 of the Customs Act.) Under these provisions and amendments thereto, some imports are given arbitrary valuations differing from those upon which actual payments for the imports are made.

For Customs entry purposes, the value of the currency of the country of export is converted to Canadian currency at exchange ratios as authorized by law and Orders in Council. (See Sect. 55 of the Customs Act and Orders in Council respecting currency valuations.) Differences arising from fluctuations in the exchange rates of foreign currencies are treated more fully below under the heading "Discrepancies in Trade Statistics between Canada and Other Countries".

Canadian Exports: Valuation.—"Canadian produce" exported includes Canadian products or manufactures, also exports of commodities of foreign origin that have been changed in form or enhanced in value by further manufacture in Canada, such as sugar refined in Canada from imported raw sugar, aluminum extracted from imported ore, and articles constructed or manufactured from imported materials. The value of exports of Canadian merchandise is the actual cost or the value at the time of exportation at the points in Canada whence consigned for export.

Foreign Exports: Valuation.—"Foreign produce" exported consists of foreign merchandise that had previously been imported (entered for home consumption). The value of such commodities is the actual cost.

Countries to which Trade is Credited.—Imports are classified as received from the countries whence they were consigned to Canada. The countries of consignment are the countries from which the goods have come, without interruption of transit save in the course of transshipment or transfer from one means of conveyance to another. The countries whence goods are consigned are not necessarily the countries of actual origin, since goods produced in one country may be purchased by a firm in another country and thence dispatched, after longer or shorter interval, to Canada. In such cases the second country would be the country of consignment, to which the goods would be credited. An example is the case of tea grown in the Orient but purchased in the bonded market at London, England; Canadian statistics record such imports as coming from the United Kingdom.

Exports are credited to the country of final destination, i.e., the country to which they are consigned, whether that country possesses a seaboard or not. The country of final destination is the country to which goods exported from Canada are intended to pass, without interruption of transit save in the course of transshipment or transfer from one means of conveyance to another.