

France

At the previous GATT conferences concessions had been negotiated by France on about two-thirds of the items in the French Customs Tariff. Among the products on which new concessions have been granted are the following: aluminum hydroxide bound against increase at 15 per cent ad valorem; lecithin, reduced from 20 per cent to 18 per cent; patent leather, reduced from 17 per cent to 15 per cent; and certain types of sewing machines, reduced from 12 per cent to 11 per cent ad valorem.

Germany

Germany granted concessions on a wide range of products. The concessions of primary interest to Canada include reductions in the duty on whisky, from 375 marks to 325 marks and from 575 marks to 525 marks per 100 kilos respectively depending on the size of the containers; a binding on canned salmon at 20 per cent and a reduction on canned lobster from 30 per cent to 20 per cent; an elimination of the 8 per cent duty on unbleached sulphate pulp and a reduction on bleached sulphate pulp from 10 per cent to 5 per cent; a reduction on ferro-silicon of high silicon content from 12 per cent to 11 per cent; a reduction on radio control and radio navigational aid equipment from 15 per cent to 12 per cent; and a reduction on polyvinyl chloride resins from 25 per cent to 21 per cent in three annual stages.

Duty reductions were also granted in the duties on fresh and frozen eels, kraft paper and paperboard and domestic electric washing machines. Statutory duties were reduced to the level of temporary reduced rates on small outboard motors, tires and tubes for motor vehicles, unwrought magnesium, calculating machines, typewriters and cash registers, and on metal-working machine tools. The existing duty on polystyrene was bound.

Italy

The negotiations resulted in concessions by Italy covering approximately 20 per cent of Canadian exports to that country in 1955. A number of the products on which concessions were obtained have been freed from restrictions.

Italy eliminated the statutory duty of 8 per cent on salted cod, which has been admitted duty-free on a temporary basis. Similarly, the duty-free entry of chemical wood pulp was bound, from a previous statutory rate of 6 per cent. The 10 per cent duty on flax seed and the 3 per cent duty on crude cobalt were eliminated. Reductions were granted on planks and boards of Douglas fir from 10 per cent to 6 per cent, on outboard motors from 35 per cent to 27 per cent and 25 per cent respectively depending on their cylinder volume, and on fork-lift trucks from 35 per cent to 32 per cent.

Reductions to the level of the temporary duties were obtained on prepared moulding and drawing powders of polystyrene and of similar plastics; on spades, shovels, hoes and similar tools; on calculating machines, automatic electric toasters and on burners operated by gas. The statutory duty on canned salmon was reduced from 25 per cent to 14 per cent. In addition, reductions were granted on certain iron and steel items imported from countries not belonging to the European Coal and Steel Community, including Canada, within an annual quota.