

CANADA-WEST INDIES TRADE

Trade Minister Robert H. Winters told the Halifax Board of Trade recently that the strengthening of its relations with the West Indies was one of Canada's "top priorities in the trade field". Nowhere he said, was there "a greater desire to foster and reinforce these historic ties than in the Atlantic Provinces". For two centuries, exports to the West Indies had been important in the development of that region's economy.

Elaborating on the further development of these ties, the Minister declared that the possible updating of the 1925 Trade agreement to facilitate two-way trade expansion was under study.

The Minister observed that Canadian exports to the Caribbean had amounted to \$100 million in 1966, a level never before achieved. To maintain and expand this level he urged Canadian exporters to adjust to the industrial development programmes and changing import requirements of the Commonwealth Caribbean.

Because Canada had this important share of the West Indies' market it is "in our interest to see the West Indies do well in their exports to Canada".

SUGAR TARIFF REMOVAL

Mr. Winters indicated that he hoped to be able to announce soon the detailed implementation of Canada's undertaking to the Commonwealth Caribbean countries to remove the remaining tariff impediment on imports of raw sugar. He added that this would "help the West Indies maintain their position in the Canadian market".

Caribbean producers have been seriously concerned over the low prices introduced by other countries to "hold their present share of our market," he said. The situation, he suggested, would be even more serious for the Caribbean if they did not benefit from the tariff preference of \$1 a cwt.

The present world sugar price is too low, Mr. Winters declared, and he urged that serious negotiations be introduced aimed at achieving a new international sugar agreement which could ensure that a realistic minimum price would not "be undermined by imports from countries that do not choose to join".

"A negotiating conference is overdue," the Minister said. He pledged that Canada would join actively in working out an agreement that would "bring about a greater degree of stability" in international sugar prices.

"KENNEDY ROUND" TALKS

Speaking of the expansion of the forestry and fishing industries of the Atlantic region, the Minister declared that he was hoping for important gains for their

products in the "Kennedy round" of trade negotiations. He said that Canada would be bargaining hard in the next few weeks to secure the maximum benefits for Canadian exporters and the whole Canadian economy.

Describing the Department of Trade and Commerce centennial year export-promotion programme, the Minister said that already businessmen had arranged 6,466 interviews with the more than 60 Canadian trade commissioners who would be travelling across Canada soon to brief exporters on sales possibilities in foreign markets.

ESKIMO CERAMICS EXHIBITED

The age-old desire to make ceramics was finally realized by the Keewatin Eskimos recently when the first exhibition of present-day Eskimo ceramics opened in Toronto on March 2. In the display are shards of rudimentary Eskimo pottery dating back to the Ninth Century A.D.

The exhibition, which was opened by Northern Development Minister Arthur Laing, is sponsored by the provisional class of the Junior League of Toronto in co-operation with the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development.

"The first exhibition is the astonishing result of combining creative Eskimo talent and the expressive medium of clay," Mr. Laing said. "Each Keewatin Eskimo ceramic is an original; as with the soapstone sculpture there is no mass production of this work."

The ceramics, which were approved by the Eskimo Art Committee, are the work of a dozen Eskimo artists at Rankin Inlet on the west coast of Hudson Bay. Some are pottery forms with sculptured detail; others are masks, or expressive groups of figures. In one piece, a family group sits on the rim of a *kudlik* (the seal oil lamp that has been a symbol of family warmth and light for many arctic centuries); in another, a legendary goose carries Eskimo hunters to the safety of land.

HEAT LACK PAST DRAWBACK

In earlier centuries, making ceramics was not possible in the Eastern Arctic because of a lack of heat. Fragments of clay vessels found by the Fifth Thule expedition in the vicinity of Repulse Bay, some 250 miles north of Rankin Inlet, were saturated with oil but had not been baked. To-day, with the advent of hydro power, the Keewatin people are again experimenting with one of the oldest arts known to mankind.
