

Dr. G.S.H. Barton is F.A.O. Representative: The Department of External Affairs announced today the appointment of Dr. G. S. H. Barton, Deputy Minister of Agriculture, as Canadian representative on the Council of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

The Council of F.A.O. was set up at the third General Conference of F.A.O. which was held in Geneva August 25 to September 11, 1947. It consists of the representatives of eighteen of the 53 member nations and replaces the former Executive Committee of experts serving in their individual capacity. It will act as the executive body of the organization between the annual sessions of the Conference, keep the world food and agriculture situation and inter-governmental commodity arrangements under constant review, and will stimulate action by and co-operate with governments.

The Conference recommended that, in addition, the new Council should take over the functions of the International Emergency Food Council and during the present acute shortage of foods continue the recommending of international allocations of commodities in short supply.

This final recommendation will be one of the major items on the agenda of the Council, which opened its first regular session in Washington today.

Dr. Barton has been active in building F.A.O. from its inception. He headed the Canadian delegation to the United Nations Conference on Food and Agriculture in Hot Springs, Va., 1943; he was Canada's alternate delegate (alternate to the Minister of Agriculture) to FAO Conferences in Quebec City, 1945; Copenhagen, 1946, and Geneva, 1947.

He was a member of FAO's Executive Committee and Chairman of FAO's sub-committee on finance since their establishment in 1945. At Geneva in 1947 he was vice-chairman of Commission III (Constitutional, Administrative and Financial Problems of FAO).

Canada's Foreign Trade: Foreign trade of Canada reached record proportions during the first nine months of this year, being valued at \$3,927,500,000 compared with \$3,043,900,000 in the same period of 1946, an increase of 29 per cent, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The previous high for the nine-month period was registered in 1944 at \$3,907,000,000. In September the trade was valued at \$429,700,000 practically the same as in August, but 31 per cent higher than in September last year when the total was \$328,000,000.

Domestic exports in the first nine months were valued at \$2,004,900,000 compared with \$1,663,900,000 in the similar period of 1946, an increase of 20.5 per cent. In September, there was a further slight recession from the record levels of May and June, but the month's total was substantially higher than in September last year. Exports in the month were valued at \$218,600,000 compared with \$221,300,000 in August and \$169,800,000 in September last year.

Commodities were imported to the value of \$1,892,600,000 during the first nine months of this year compared with \$1,360,800,000 in the same period of 1946, a gain of 39 per cent. In September, the value was \$208,100,000, slightly higher than in August when the total was \$204,600,000, but one-third higher than last year's September figure of \$156,100,000.

Foreign commodities were re-exported to the value of \$26,400,000, in the nine months of this year, compared with \$19,200,000 in the like period of 1946. In September, the value was \$3,000,000 compared with \$3,500,000 in August and \$2,100,000 a year ago.

In the nine months, the balance of merchandise trade with all countries was favourable to Canada to the extent of \$135,000,000 compared with \$322,300,000 in the same period of 1946, and the pre-war five-year average of \$132,200,000. Net exports of non-monetary gold -- additional to the balance of trade -- amounted in the nine months to \$71,900,000 compared with \$74,600,000 in 1946, and the pre-war five-year average of \$89,700,000.