

GOVERNMENT



OF CANADA

## DAILY AIRMAIL BULLETIN

INFORMATION DIVISION  
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
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Trade with Russia: Ottawa, Jan. 4 (CP) -- Canada is willing to do more trade with Russia "in a limited list of commodities", Mr. Howe said today.

The Minister, in an interview, observed that the Soviet Union has signed a number of trade agreements with various countries, but said the Soviet has made no direct trade approach to Canada.

Australia recently concluded a deal with Russia to import Soviet canned salmon and crabmeat. This led an Australian newspaper, the Melbourne Herald, to suggest that Canada would protest since Canada had previously supplied the Australian market.

However, Mr. Howe said the Canadian Government is not planning any protest. Australia, a sterling-area country, was short of dollars and had not purchased Canadian canned salmon for several years.

As for Canada's own relations with Russia, Canada is ready to open trade negotiations on shipments of non-strategic goods.

Mr. Howe observed that there are signs of Russian "goodwill" on the world economic front, but Canada would not be willing to ship any strategic item to that country or any Communist satellite.

Russia would have to pay for her Canadian goods either in dollars or gold, but there might be ways of working out a barter deal between a Russian trade group and Canadian private traders.

Russian-Canadian trade has become almost non-existent. Canada, in the first 10 months of 1953, exported about \$466 worth of goods to Russia--mostly gifts. Imports--mostly raw furs--totalled about \$416,000 in the first eight months of last year.

During the Second World War, however, Canadian exports to Russia reached as high as \$100,000,000 a year. These were mostly war materials used by Russia to beat back the Nazi invasion.

Turning to the world economic front generally, Mr. Howe said he is "optimistic" about the future. He believed Canada's Gross National Product which reached a peak of \$24,200,000,000 in 1953, will increase again in 1954.

Gouzenko Interview: (Press Release No. 3, Jan. 5.) -- The Department of External Affairs announced on January 5 that in accordance with arrangements made between the Canadian and United States Governments before Christmas, a meeting was held on January 4 at which representatives of the United States Government interviewed Mr. Igor Gouzenko. The meeting was presided over by Chief Justice James C. McRuer of the High Court of Ontario, who presided at the request of the Canadian Government. The United States Government was represented by His Excellency the United States Ambassador to Canada, Mr. R. Douglas Stuart, Senator William E. Jenner, Senator Pat McCarran and Mr. J. G. Sourwine. Mr. D. W. Mundell, Q.C., represented the Attorney General of Canada. Representatives of the Departments of Justice and External Affairs and of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police were also present at the meeting.

Departmental Appointments: Ottawa, Jan. 4 (CP) -- Mr. Robert A. MacKay today was named Deputy Under-Secretary of the Department of External Affairs. He succeeds Mr. Charles Ritchie who will accompany Mr. St. Laurent on his world tour next month.

Two others were appointed Assistant Under-Secretaries: Mr. J. W. Holmes and Mr. Jean Chapdelaine. They succeed Mr. Jules Leger, recently appointed Ambassador to Mexico, and Mr. MacKay.