



CANADIAN WEEKLY BULLETIN

INFORMATION DIVISION

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

OTTAWA - CANADA

Vol. 12 No. 15

April 10, 1957

CANADA'S TRADE WITH COMMONWEALTH

(An article by R.R. Parlour, of the Foreign Trade Service, Department of Trade and Commerce, in "Foreign Trade", March 30, 1957).

British Commonwealth countries provided a billion-dollar market for Canadian goods in 1956. Canada's exports to the Commonwealth last year gained about 5 per cent over the 1955 figure and reached a value of \$1,056 million--more than one-fifth of total Canadian exports and over half our exports outside North America. The greatest relative increases occurred in exports in Pakistan, the Union of South Africa, and the British West Indies, although the gain of \$44 million in shipments to the United Kingdom was the largest in absolute terms. Almost the only declines came in exports to Australia and New Zealand.

On the import side, 1956 brought a 16 per cent increase in Canada's purchases from the Commonwealth, largely because of larger shipments of manufactured metal and textile products from the United Kingdom and a growing movement of bauxite and alumina from Jamaica and British Guiana to smelters in Canada. As in previous years, most of Canada's sugar imports came from the British West Indies, Mauritius, and other Commonwealth countries.

MAIN MARKETS FOR CANADIAN GOODS

Nearly every category of Canada's exports to the United Kingdom in 1956 showed increases; the chief gains were in wheat, iron ore, aluminum and other metals, newsprint, drugs and chemicals, and canned salmon. However, there was a substantial drop in lumber sales

as United Kingdom imports of softwood lumber from all sources declined, and stocks were consumed. Exports to South Africa were helped by the prosperity in that country, as well as by the absence of discriminatory controls against dollar imports. However, much of the gain resulted from a large sale of jet aircraft, an item which was not exported to South Africa in 1955. At the same time, there was a rise in sales of newsprint but some falling-off in lumber shipments.

Among the British West Indies markets for Canadian goods, British Guiana and Jamaica made the greatest gains during 1956. British Guiana's imports of Canadian flour increased sharply and purchases of Canadian potatoes, animal feeds, tobacco, fish, machinery and paint also went up. Jamaica increased her purchases of flour, fish, tobacco, automobiles, and machinery for the bauxite mining industry. The sharp gain in exports to Pakistan was occasioned principally by the provision of aid under the Colombo Plan and the main increases were in exports of contractors' equipment, locomotives, radio apparatus and wheat.

SALES "DOWN UNDER"

Exports to Australia and New Zealand were smaller than in the previous year but there are indications that the setback is temporary, and that the trend is still upward. Severe import restrictions maintained by Australia in

(Over)

CONTENTS

Canada's Trade With Commonwealth	1	Naval Conference	4
NRC Scholarships	2	Death Of Canadian Ambassador	5
Overseas Tour	2	Appointments And Transfers	5
Canada At 13 Fairs	3	Securities Trading	5
Atlantic Seal Fishery	3	Gross National Product Climbs	6
Wage Increases	3	Population Gain	6
Tribute To Galt	4	3 New Institutes	6
NATO Visitors	4		