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WEEK'S EVENTS IN REVIEW

RELAXATION OF IMPORT CONTROLS: Mr. Abbott, the Minister of Finance, on February 8 announced a programme of further relaxations of the import controls under the Emergency Exchange Conservation Act in two stages effective April 1 and July 1 respectively.

The changes effective April 1, 1950 are as follows:

1. All emergency exchange import restrictions will be withdrawn on printed labels of all kinds (Tariff Item 179); on all plumbing and bathroom fixtures covered by Tariff Item 433; on all cocoa products covered by Tariff Items 20, 20a, 21 and 22; and on all coffee products covered by Tariff Items 25a, 26, 27 and 29.

2. The following items now on the prohibited list, will be transferred to Category 4 of the quota list; glass ovenware and other heat resistant glassware (Tariff Item 326g), and electric light bulbs (Tariff Item 445b).

3. The import quotas for Category 2 (textiles) will be increased by 10 per cent, that is from the present 40 per cent rate to a 44 per cent rate.

4. Switzerland, the only European country on the list of scheduled countries, is being transferred to the non-scheduled list. This means that all imports of quota goods from Switzerland will be admitted under open general permit as from April 1, 1950.

5. The following items, now on the prohibited list, may be imported from non-scheduled countries under open general permit and from scheduled countries may be imported against existing Category 4 quotas: all paper products at present on the prohibited list under Tariff Items 181, 192, 193, 194, 197, 198, 199, 312, 509 and 711; genuine or imitation pearls (Tariff Item 648); and mineral wool (Tariff Item 689a).

The additional changes effective July 1, 1950, are:

1. Refrigerators, washing machines, radio receiving sets, gramophones, outboard motors, small boats (not designed for use with inboard motive power); show cases, pianos and organs will be taken off the prohibited list and included in Category 4 of the quota list. The quota percentage for Category 4 is 50 per cent of the 1946-47 imports.

2. All canned and frozen vegetables, soup preparations, dried fruits and fruit pulps, now on the prohibited list, will be transferred to Category 5 of the quota list. The quota percentage for Category 5 is 44 per cent of the 1946-47 imports.

3. The following items, now on the prohibited list, will be permitted entry from non-scheduled countries under open General permit and from scheduled countries against existing Category 4 quotas; electric dish-