

in upon me that the time had come for a representative Canadian to visit Japan, to return the visits of Japanese public men, and to meet business men who were buying Canadian goods, and who were selling Japanese goods to Canada.

I went, you might say, as an Ambassador of good will. But I also wished to take advantage of the opportunity to give some advice to Japanese manufacturers and merchants about how and what to sell in Canada, and to see if I could give a boost to Canadian exports to Japan.

I had expected to be welcomed with customary Japanese courtesy. What happened far exceeded my expectations. I can only conclude that the Japanese people are genuinely interested in Canadians and that the Japanese Government wished to show me that they valued very highly indeed the friendship and support of Canada.

I was told how grateful the Japanese Government and people were for Canada's willingness to conclude a most-favoured-nation agreement with them. I was told how grateful they were for Canada's support for Japanese membership in the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade and the Colombo Plan. Most of all, I think they appreciated the efforts which Canada made to get Japan into the United Nations, efforts which unfortunately were frustrated by Russia. When I left the airport in Tokyo, the Foreign Minister's last words to me were about the Middle East crisis, and about the confidence that the Japanese Government placed in Canada and in our Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Pearson.

Even more tangible were the assurances that Japan would continue to be a big market for Canadian produce, and that we could look forward to a steady development of our sales to that country.

I shall not attempt to give a travelogue of my sixteen days in Japan, but let me try to give you a few impressions. Before I left Canada, I was asked to approve the itinerary. To me it looked impossible to see so much, and to travel so far, in sixteen days, but since the Japanese authorities thought that it was possible, I agreed, although with some misgivings.

Impossible it might be to see so much and to do so much in any other country, but in Japan when it comes to organization apparently nothing is impossible. We adhered strictly to that itinerary, except that we managed to fit in a number of additional visits, and we were never late by five minutes for any appointment. At the same time there was no rush. We always seemed to have time for a cup of tea.

The Japanese Foreign Office did a masterly job. Automobiles were always on hand to pick us up. As if by magic, seats appeared on crowded trains, vacated by Japanese who must have been holding them for our party. The same thing happened in theatres. At every railway station, the station master appeared