

[English]

OPPORTUNITIES FOR TRADE WITH EASTERN EUROPE

Question No. 2,378—**Mr. Hees:**

1. What are the countries in eastern Europe where opportunities exist for greater sales of Canadian products?

2. What additional trade initiatives are going to be used to take advantage of them?

Hon. Robert Winters (Minister of Trade and Commerce): 1. Eastern European countries in which, on the basis of my personal observations, opportunities exist for increased sales of Canadian products include the U.S.S.R., Czechoslovakia, Poland, Hungary, Bulgaria and Yugoslavia.

2. On two separate trips last summer, officials of the Department of Trade and Commerce and I visited the Soviet union as well as Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland and Yugoslavia. Grain sales are, of course, attracting the most attention, but Canada is, at the same time, gradually expanding and diversifying exports of industrial materials and capital equipment to eastern Europe. Canada's sales of commodities other than grain and flour to these markets have increased substantially over the past two years to a total last year of about \$35 million.

In order to provide the framework for further expansion of trade opportunities with eastern Europe, the government has taken the initiative in extending Canada's trade agreements with most of the socialist countries. In Moscow last June a protocol was signed extending the Canada-U.S.S.R. trade agreement for another three years. At the same time, the Canadian Wheat Board entered into a new long term wheat agreement with its Soviet counterpart. In July a long term wheat agreement was renewed with Poland. At present, the government is negotiating with Bulgaria and preparing for negotiations with Hungary with a view to renewing our trade arrangements with these countries. Trade negotiations with Roumania are also presently under study.

The trade fair program sponsored by the Department of Trade and Commerce is an important aid to businessmen in their efforts to develop trade opportunities in the socialist countries. In addition to participating in the leading east European exhibitions, Canada last year for the first time took part in a Soviet trade fair as well. For this year, Canada is planning exhibits at four fairs in the socialist countries including Poznan, Brno and Zagreb.

Questions

The government is also taking the initiative in sponsoring trade missions in both directions. This year the Department of Trade and Commerce plans to send a metals and minerals mission and a capital equipment and consulting engineering mission to east Europe. An incoming cattle buying mission from the U.S.S.R. is expected and an incoming nuclear power mission will include representatives from eastern Europe. Missions involving other commodities are also being explored, and our trade commissioners in these countries are being brought back to Canada this spring.

Canadian businessmen are being encouraged to explore personally export potentials being created in the socialist countries as a result of the changes taking place there.

In the open economy, the actual buying and selling is done by businessmen. Accordingly, it is worth noting that, in addition to government activity, chambers of commerce and boards of trade across the country are sponsoring missions to eastern Europe and the number of individual businessmen travelling in both directions is increasing steadily.

PURCHASES OF SCALLOPS BY ARMED FORCES

Question No. 2,382—**Mr. Crouse:**

How many pounds of scallops were purchased by all branches of the armed forces during 1965 and 1966?

Hon. Léo Cadieux (Associate Minister of National Defence): 1965, 111,310 lbs.; 1966, 110,902 lbs.

WINTER WORKS PROGRAM, NATIONAL PARKS

Question No. 2,385—**Mr. Bell (Saint John-Albert):**

Has the government instituted a winter works program this season in the national parks and, if so, what is the estimated expenditure and employment in each park?

Hon. Arthur Laing (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): While the government has not instituted a winter works program, this year, which has applications in the national parks, the department has attempted to relieve unemployment by carrying out projects during the winter season wherever possible.

TENDERS FOR MAIL DELIVERY, ANTICOSTI ISLAND

Question No. 2,388—**Mr. Keays:**

1. In 1966 did the Department of Transport, marine radio section, request tenders for the transport of mail and delivery to lighthouses on Anticosti island?