

gross domestic product, a higher degree of investment and a slight rise in expenditures for household items. This, plus the French government's policy of rigorous management, complemented by a determined desire to modernize, should enable our exporters and our industrialists to retain and even increase their share of the market.

Energy and Minerals

In 1984, for the first time, Canada sold coal to France — more than C\$26 million worth. French investments in the coal sector in Canada, long-term supply contracts and the imposition of restrictions on imports from certain countries should enable us to considerably increase our sales figures, which were more than C\$47 million in 1986, in the coming years.

Our sales of ores and concentrates, mainly zinc, uranium and asbestos, also increased in 1986 and should continue to do so in 1987.

Forest Products

Our exports of forest products to France, which began to decline in 1983 as a result of the rise in the dollar and vigorous competition from Scandinavia, remained relatively low in 1984 and 1985. The situation improved in 1986, because of the stabilization of the dollar and the resurgence of the construction industry in France.

Fishery Products

In 1986, French imports of all fishery products combined was 5.9 billion francs, 354 million of it from Canada. Because of its geographic location, Canada has varied and abundant fishery resources, particularly Pacific salmon, lobster and other fresh fish, which make up our main exports to France.

Agricultural Products

France is one of the foremost producers of agricultural and food products. In fact, it is the world's second exporter of agri-food products,

behind the United States but ahead of the Netherlands.

In 1985, France had a trade surplus of 34.4 billion francs in agricultural and food products. Despite this, French agri-food imports in 1985 totalled 112.2 billion francs, 960 million of which came from Canada. The main Canadian exports to France were meat and variety meats, fruits and fruit preparations and vegetables and vegetable preparations.

High Technology Products

Canadian exports to France of professional equipment, especially in the office automation, professional electronics and aeronautics sectors are doing very well, especially when one considers the strong competition from the United States, Japan and European countries.

Our telecommunications equipment, electronic parts and components, semi-conductors, aircraft engines and parts, office equipment and software are being marketed successfully in France.