

THE PATTERN OF CANADIAN PROGRESS

After this thoroughly immodest recital of Canada's achievements in recent years, it might be appropriate to attempt an analysis of some of the basic factors that account for this progress. While there can be no question that we do enjoy an almost unseemly wealth of natural resources, it is not enough simply to say that we are fortune's favourites or even that our people are some kind of special breed who can accomplish things not attainable in other parts of the world. No, there must be some conscious policy behind our recent expansion.

I have given this question a good deal of thought and out of all the complex factors and subtle forces that shape the destiny of a nation, I have selected four features of national policy which I consider to be essential conditions to progress and prosperity. Canada stands four square on these foundations:

-- vigorous trade

-- judicious investment

-- sound fiscal management

-- enlightened social measures.

Let me say a few words about each.

TRADE AND INVESTMENT AND NATIONAL PROSPERITY

That a high level of trade is one of the cornerstones of Canadian prosperity has been an accepted part of Canadian business and political thinking ever since Confederation.

This lesson was driven home to us whenever our country went through a serious depression, as in the 1870's, the 1890's and the 1930's. We had surpluses of many materials and goods, but we could not exchange them for the products we wanted from other countries. We were faced with the ironic paradox that other countries also had surpluses which they would have been willing to exchange for ours. Because we could not get together, Canada and the world were the poorer.

It is, therefore, no coincidence that we have been most prosperous when our volume of trade has been large and well-diversified. For only in this way were all parts of Canada able to benefit from our expanding trade, and the country as a whole in a position to make the best possible use of our bountiful resources to the benefit of business and consumer alike.

Today, Canada's import and export trade are at an all-time high. Between Canada and the United States, our total trade now amounts to five billions a year -- the largest ever achieved between two countries in all history. At the same time, during the first nine months of 1952, Canada's exports to countries other than the United States showed an increase of 34 per cent over the same period in 1951.