

by the Foreign Exchange Control Board. Applications for funds required for travel for reasons of health must be accompanied by a confidential medical report.

There will be no restrictions on the number of trips as long as the annual allotment of \$150 U.S. is not exceeded. In the case of children of eleven years and under the travel ration per year is \$100 U.S.

Any funds obtained for one trip and not used on that trip must be brought back to Canada and exchanged for Canadian dollars at the traveller's bank immediately on his return. No credit for these funds can be allowed against the annual "ration" for use on later trips.

A special arrangement recognizes the needs of some Canadians who have occasion to cross the border frequently for visits of short duration. In these cases when the traveller will not be taking out of Canada more than a total of \$25, of which not more than \$10 is in U.S. funds, he may obtain from his bank up to a total of \$10 U.S. in any calendar month. This "border-crossing ration" is not charged against the annual travel ration of \$150 U.S., but is in addition to it.

It was made known by officials of the Foreign Exchange Control Board that steps have been taken in conjunction with Customs officials and the R.C.M.P. to ensure observance of these regulations. Customs officers are being instructed to question carefully all out-going residents. In cases where such questioning leads the inspector to believe that the resident is taking with him more money than his permit allows or that he has U.S. dollars illegally in his possession, the inspector has the authority to make a personal search. Officials, however, will spare no effort to ensure considerate treatment of Canadians who give satisfactory proof of observance of the regulations.

It was also pointed out that Canadian tourists travelling outside of Canada will not be permitted to bring back with them articles covered in the Prohibited List or in the Quota List of the Order-in-Council restricting imports.

## MULTILATERAL TARIFF PACT

**DETAILS MADE PUBLIC:** Details have been made public of the multilateral General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade concluded at Geneva, Oct. 30, between Canada and the United States, Belgium - Luxembourg and the Netherlands (comprising the new customs union of Benelux) Brazil, Chile, China, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, France, Lebanon-Syria and Norway as well as the United Kingdom, the Union of South Africa, Ceylon, India, Pakistan. Under a protocol of General Application also signed at Geneva, tariff concessions provided under the General Agreement will be brought into force provisionally January 1, 1948 by countries which signed the protocol. The protocol was signed by Australia, Belgium, Canada, France, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and the

United States. It remains open to other countries which participated in the Geneva negotiations to sign the protocol at a later date.

As formulated, the General Agreement is a substantive, international agreement. It is independent of, but complementary to the draft Charter and can if necessary stand by itself. It comes into force provisionally by itself and is so framed as to permit its continuance in operation even though the Havana conference should fail to produce an acceptable Charter.

### PREFERENCES VITAL PART

Preferences played a vital part in the Geneva negotiations. Basic principles agreed are that no new preferences may be created, that no existing preferences may be enlarged and that such preferences as remain after conclusion of the Geneva negotiations shall be negotiable. Just as the preferences remaining after Geneva are negotiable (that is subject to elimination or impairment only by negotiation) so were pre-Geneva preferences negotiable during the past summer.

Conclusion by Canada of mutually satisfactory negotiations with other countries states an announcement to the Press would not have been easy, indeed might have been impossible, had it not been for the cooperation extended by those other countries of the Commonwealth with which she has trade agreements notably the United Kingdom, Australia, South Africa, New Zealand, and the West Indies. Throughout the long and complicated series of negotiations, there was on the part of all the Commonwealth countries a readiness to understand and appreciate one another's problems and a joint determination to assist one another in arriving at agreements which all could recommend as being in the interests of each and of the world at large.

### REVISION OF U.K. AGREEMENT

One result of this co-operative attitude is that there has been concluded on Canada's initiative a revision of the Canada-United Kingdom Trade Agreement (1937). Under an exchange of letters each country undertakes, with respect to goods covered by the relevant Schedules of the multilateral Agreement (Schedules V and XIX), to continue to accord to the products of the other treatment no less favourable in general than has been accorded under the existing Agreement of 1937, but in which also each government recognizes the right of the other to reduce or eliminate preferences. In taking such initiative, the Canadian government has had in mind the historic Canadian attitude respecting preferences, namely, that these concessions, freely given, are not matters of rigid contractual right or obligation. It is the intention of the Canadian government to propose to the other Commonwealth governments concerned agreements with them similar to that now concluded between this country and the United Kingdom.

The Geneva agreement is the most far-reaching and comprehensive of its kind in Canadian history. Concessions secured by and

concessions granted by Canada alike cover wide fields.

**CONCESSIONS SECURED:** Here are the principal concessions secured:

**Wheat:** Maximum reduction in the United States duty and substantial reductions in the customs duty and/or "monopoly charges" in France, Belgium and Luxembourg, Netherlands, Cuba, and Norway, with binding of free entry or existing duty in China and Brazil.

**Coarse grains:** Maximum reductions in the United States duties on oats, barley, rye, bran, shorts, middlings, grain hulls, screenings and scalplings.

**Cattle:** Binding of the United States rate of 1½ cts. per lb. on cattle weighing 700 lbs. or more each, together with an enlargement of the quota from 225,000 head to 400,000 head; and binding of the rate of 1½ cts. per lb. on calves with an enlargement of the quota from 100,000 head to 200,000 head.

**Cod fillets:** Continuance in the United States of the existing quota and quota rate but with a binding of the ex-quota rate of 2½ cts. per pound (not bound under the existing Agreement).

**Other fisheries products:** Maximum reductions in United States duties on fresh or frozen salmon and halibut; reductions in duties on other fresh fish, on smoked or kippered herring, on pickled salmon, and on cod, dry or green salted, pickled, etc.

Binding by Benelux of free entry of fish, fresh or chilled, salted, smoked or dried; reduction by France on canned salmon and canned lobster; reduction by Brazil on dry salted codfish and by Cuba on dried codfish; reductions by Czechoslovakia on salted herrings and preserved salmon; by India on canned fish; and by Norway on canned lobster, canned salmon and salted salmon.

**Lumber:** Maximum reductions in United States duty, as well as in I.R.C. tax, on sawn and dressed boards, planks, etc. of fir, hemlock, spruce, pine, and larch. Maximum reductions also in duties on red cedar plywood, veneers (other than of birch or maple, which are bound at 10 p.c.), and binding of free entry for wood pulp, poles, ties, staves, etc.

Binding by Benelux of free entry for logs, pulpwood and wood pulp and of low rates on veneer sheets and tongued and grooved wood; reductions in French duties on logs, pulpwood, veneer leaves, tongued and grooved wood, and wood pulp; and by India on Douglas fir timber.

**Base metals:** Reduction by one-third of United States duty on aluminum metal and by 50 per cent of the duties on aluminum plates, sheet, scrap, etc. Maximum reduction on magnesium, tantalum, cadmium, nickel in all forms except tubes and tubing, and zinc sheets, scrap and dross, together with binding of free entry and maximum reduction in I.R.C. tax on all copper.

Binding by Benelux of free entry for lead and zinc ores; copper in pigs, ingots, etc.;

nickel in ingots, plates, etc.; aluminum in ingots, plates, etc.; and zinc ingots.

Binding by France of free entry for important ores and reductions in duty on various forms of copper, nickel, aluminum and zinc and free entry for lead ingots.

Binding by Czechoslovakia and Norway of free entry for certain forms of copper, nickel, aluminum, and cadmium.

**Seed potatoes:** Continuance in United States of existing quota rate on certified seed potatoes with increase in quota from 1,500,000 bushels to 2,500,000 bushels.

Free entry for seed potatoes bound in Brazil and in Cuba on seasonal basis.

**Turnips:** Maximum reduction in United States duty.

**Wheat flour:** Maximum reduction in United States duty and reductions in duty and/or monopoly tax in Benelux and Cuba, as well as reduction in duties in French colonial possessions.

**Seeds:** Maximum reductions in United States duties on alfalfa, red clover, alsike clover, sweet clover, and timothy, with reductions on other grass and forage seeds. Binding in Benelux of free entry for clover and forage crop seeds; reduction in Czechoslovakia on lucerne and grass seeds; and binding in France of free entry of clover and other forage seeds.

**Non-metallic minerals:** Numerous reductions in various countries in duties on mica, talc, and corundum, with continuance of free entry of asbestos in United States, Benelux, and Czechoslovakia, and of free entry in United States of coal and coke, artificial abrasives (crude), calcium cyanide, gypsum, stone, and sand (including nepheline syenite).

**Chemicals:** Maximum reductions in United States duties on acetic anhydride, vinyl acetate and synthetic resins, selenium dioxide and tellurium compounds, aluminum hydroxide, ammonium nitrate, calcium carbide, acetylene and other blacks, and salt, with reductions in duties on acetic acid and crude barytes.

**Apples:** Reduction in duties in United States on fresh apples and maximum reduction on dried and canned apples. Reductions by Benelux on fresh and dried apples; by France on fresh and dried apples and apple juice; and by Norway on fresh apples.

**Berries:** Reductions in United States duties on blueberries, both frozen and canned, as well as on other frozen berries.

**Dairy Products, Eggs, Etc.:** Maximum reduction in United States duties on live poultry of all kinds; on all dressed poultry other than turkeys; and on baby chicks, canned chicken and dead game birds.

Quota retained on fresh cream but quota rate reduced from 28.3 cts. per gallon to 20 cts. (quota retained on whole milk, but quota rate reduced from 3¼ cts. per gallon to 2 cts. Reductions in rates on skimmed milk and buttermilk, condensed milk (sweetened and unsweetened), whole milk dried, and skim milk and buttermilk, dried.