

TARIFF CONCESSIONS GRANTED BY CANADA

The tariff concessions made by Canada at the 1956 Geneva Tariff Conference cover 180 items or sub-items in the Canadian Customs Tariff. Of these, 115 are reductions in the present M.F.N. tariff and 55 are bindings of the existing rates of duty, of which many had been lowered unilaterally by Canada since the last tariff conference. For 5 items Canada undertook not to raise duties above certain specified rates higher than those actually in effect, but which in all 5 cases are lower than the rates previously agreed to under the GATT. The remaining five items are reductions in the British Preferential Tariff, concurrent with reductions in the M.F.N. tariff. Canada's concessions are shown in Schedule V to the Protocol of Supplementary Concessions. This schedule consists of Part I covering the M.F.N. tariff, and Part II covering the Preferential tariff. These concessions will not come into effect immediately, but will be implemented at appropriate times having regard to the implementation by other countries of their concessions to Canada. The Canadian concessions to each country will be brought into effect in one step.

Canada's total imports during the calendar year 1955 from all countries under the 115 items or sub-items on which the M.F.N. tariff was reduced at Geneva amounted to \$91,000,000. Canada's total imports during 1955 from all countries under the 60 items which were bound but not reduced amounted to \$88,000,000.

Part II of Schedule V contains five items, which provide for reductions in Preferential rates of duty on certain goods on which the most-favoured-nation rate is also being reduced. During 1955 Canadian imports from British Commonwealth countries of goods covered by these Preferential reductions in Part II were valued at \$450,000.

The reductions in the Most-Favoured-Nation tariff cover a wide range of products such as: - textile machinery, orange juice, lettuce, newsprint, shelled oysters, shrimps, beer, spectacle frames, cigars, sawmill machinery, adding machines, cash registers, road building machines, electrical precision apparatus (such as is used in oil refineries and chemical works), cameras, and tobacco pipes. Details regarding these and other important Most-Favoured-Nation tariff reductions are given below.

The Most-Favoured-Nation rates on certain types of machinery were reduced, but all were of a class or kind not made in Canada, namely, textile machinery, Item 413, from 5 p.c. to Free; leather working machinery, Item 420, from 7½ p.c. to 5 p.c.; certain road building machinery and earth moving machinery, Item 422a, from 10 p.c. to 7½ p.c.; specialized types of electrical precision apparatus, meters, gauges, etc., Items Ex. 445k and 445n, from 22½ p.c. and 15 p.c. respectively, to 7½ p.c.

The Most-Favoured-Nation rate on newsprint, Item Ex.197, was reduced from 22½ p.c. to Free; ponderosa pine lumber and California sugarpine lumber, Item Ex. 505, from 10 p.c. to 5 p.c.; white oak lumber, Item Ex. 505, and Douglas Fir Lumber, Item Ex. 505, from 10 p.c. to 7½ p.c.