

Plans for Development

Both Nigeria and Ghana have extensive plans for development. Ghana's five-year plan, for instance, which commenced in 1959, involves an expenditure of \$950 million. The Government plans to spend during the current financial year \$31 million on works and housing, \$29 million on agriculture, \$19,600,000 on education and \$12 million on health centres.

The \$170-million power project on the Volta River will provide abundant electricity to the densely settled Southern Region, as well as to a smelter, which will be built by an international group of aluminum companies. The country's agriculture is to be developed at a cost of \$39,200,000; the plan calls for large-scale co-operative mechanization of the rubber, coffee, cotton, rice and other grain and livestock industries.

Tema Harbour, with eight ship berths planned, is already open to commercial traffic. When it is finished, it will have cost \$48,300,000. Accra Airport is to have a 9,600-foot runway for use by the largest aircraft, at a cost of \$5,600,000.

Nigerian Projects

Nigeria's plan for 1959 to 1962 calls for an outlay of \$414,400,000. About half the amount already spent has gone into communications. Oil is one of this country's recently discovered assets; there are four fields in the Eastern Region, and production is already about 18,000 barrels a day. It is hoped to double this figure when the pipe line from Bomu to Bonny is completed. By the end of 1959, the Shell and PB companies had spent \$170 million prospecting for Nigerian oil; they are jointly building a \$33,600,000 refinery near Port Harcourt.

The Nigerian Cement Company Ltd has started a \$4,200,000 addition to its plant, to double its capacity to 400,000 tons a year. Port Harcourt Cement Company, a newer firm, expects to produce 100 tons a day. A third cement factory, near Abeokuta in the Western Region, already has an output of 4,000,000 bags of cement a year. Eastern Nigeria will soon have a factory worth \$8,400,000 making pneumatic tires and accessories.

Canada's Trade With West Africa

Hitherto, Canada's sales to Ghana and Nigeria have consisted chiefly of flour and passenger vehicles. Canada buys from Ghana chiefly cocoa beans and manganese ore and from Nigeria chiefly crude rubber. Its purchases from Ghana have averaged \$3,100,000 a year and, from Nigeria, \$4,300,000 a year.

The Canadian trade fairs represent a major step in the right direction. Already a number of Canadian firms have established agencies in both Ghana and Nigeria. Other firms, at present without representation, are sending top executives, who will be able to make direct contact with West African businessmen.