

Our trade with Cuba has been rising rapidly since 1947, when Canada received substantial tariff concessions as a result of negotiations under the GATT. In 1952 we exported to Cuba \$24 million of goods, including large quantities of wheat, newsprint, wheat flour, copper, fish, malt, potatoes, milk, oats and machinery. From what I saw, there is still a wide field for a further expansion of Canadian sales in that market. Our imports from Cuba in 1952 totalled some 20 million dollars, and consisted mainly of raw sugar, synthetic yarns, pineapples, fibres and tobacco. Cuban raw sugar has been entering the Canadian market under the terms of a special arrangement entered into at Torquay in 1951. This arrangement comes to an end this year. Whether it should be renewed, and in what form, is a matter for future discussion in the light of conditions at that time.

While in Cuba, I expressed the Canadian Government's hope that the current problems in world sugar marketing may be solved to the satisfaction of both producers and importers through the medium of an international sugar agreement which will be discussed later this year. Cuba's 1951-52 crop of over 7 million metric tons of sugar is the largest in history and the Cuban Government is this year restricting the current crop to well below that figure. It is certainly in Canada's interest that the Cuban economy, so dependent on sugar production and export, should continue at a high level of prosperity and stability.

Mexico

Our four day visit to Mexico City was the last stop of our tour before returning to Canada. The Mission were received by the President of the Republic, Dr. Ruiz Cortines, and also had meetings with the ministers of the government. The Foreign Minister of Mexico, Mr. Padilla Nervo, preceded Mr. Pearson as President of the United Nations General Assembly and is a great friend of Canada.

We had particularly valuable conferences with the Banco Nacional de Mexico, with the Confederation of National Chambers of Commerce and with the Importers-Exporters Association of Mexico. At these meetings the Mexican representatives formally proposed the creation of a joint Mexican-Canadian Chamber of Commerce or similar association of private trade interests in both our countries. I understand that this proposal, which has much to commend it, is now being given the fullest consideration.

Mexico is Canada's second largest market in Latin America. Our exports in 1952 totalled almost \$40 million and included a wide range of products with the main items being motor vehicles, newsprint, machinery, woodpulp, farm implements, electrical apparatus, aluminum and asbestos. It is also one of our most important suppliers of raw cotton and of many other products including peanuts, fresh vegetables and fibres. Canadian imports from Mexico in 1952 were valued at about \$24 million. Canada has become one of Mexico's main customers. Mexico is keenly interested in the further development of her tourist trade with Canada, and I hope that an increasing number of Canadians will visit that beautiful country. We are hopeful that direct air services between Canada and Mexico may soon be established and this will aid in promoting even closer relations between us.