

The Dominican Republic is one of the world's largest and most efficient sugar producers, and was an important supplier to the Canadian market during the difficult war years. We had an opportunity to visit the most important sugar property on the island, the Rio Haina estate. Its modern sugar mill is doubling its capacity. This project, initiated in 1949, has been financed entirely with local Dominican capital, with an investment totalling some \$40 million.

Our trade with the Dominican Republic has grown substantially. In 1952 we exported to the value of nearly \$5 million, mainly fish, wheat flour, rubber tires, newsprint. Our imports totalled about \$6 million, consisting largely of raw sugar and coffee. This is an open dollar market, and I am sure that the recent establishment in Ciudad Trujillo of a Canadian Trade Commissioner post will be of great assistance to our trade.

Haiti

Our visit to Haiti, though unfortunately all too short, was extremely useful and rewarding. Canada has traditionally close and cordial relations with the Republic of Haiti, not only in trade but also in the cultural field.

In Port-au-Prince, the Mission was received by the President of the Republic, Colonel Magloire, and by members of his cabinet. We had a detailed discussion of our trade interests with government officials and with the Chamber of Commerce of Haiti.

Haiti has long been a market for our fish and flour, and is also buying numerous other goods in Canada. Our exports in 1952 totalled almost \$3.5 million. Our imports of \$2 million last year, consisted largely of raw sugar, tropical fibres, coffee and bananas. Haiti is particularly interested in developing sales of rum in this market and I hope that some satisfactory arrangement may be reached on this subject.

Our newly-appointed Trade Commissioner to Haiti will be paying particular attention to developing our trade with this country.

Cuba

From Haiti we proceeded to Cuba for a two-day visit.

Our official calls included meetings with the Minister of State, Dr. de LaCampa, with the Minister of Commerce, Dr. de LaTorre and with the Minister of Agriculture, Dr. Jacomino. The Mission were received by the President of the Republic, Major General Batista.

As you know, and as I already explained in this House, I took the opportunity of our visit to Cuba to have full discussions on the subject of sugar production and marketing. I have already reported in detail on this matter. I may say that I received the fullest co-operation from the directors and members of the Cuban Sugar Stabilization Institute and from other prominent representatives of the sugar industry. We had an opportunity also to visit the Hershey Sugar Mill, which is the largest single producer of refined sugar in Cuba with a daily productive capacity of 1,000 tons.