

CENTENNIAL YEAR EXPORT GOAL IN SIGHT

Mr. Robert Winters, Minister of Trade and Commerce, recently indicated that the strong export gains achieved in the first half of 1967 meant that the centennial year export target of \$11.25 billion was well on the way to realization.

Mr. Winters complimented the export community on their awareness of the importance of exporting and on outstanding first-half performance in response to the nation's need to achieve a high level of exports. At the same time, he directed attention to the rapid growth in imports and warned that further progress toward a mature economy depended on a stronger underlying growth in exports than in imports.

Figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics show that Canada's exports reached \$5,625 million in the first six months of 1967, compared to \$4,815 million in the same period of 1966 — an increase of \$810 million, or nearly 17 per cent. This means that more than four-fifths of the near \$1-billion increase projected for the full year has been achieved by mid-year. Even allowing for a diminution in strength in some of the external market forces contributing to this early-year expansion, it seems clear that the \$11.25-billion export target for 1967 will be realized and exceeded.

RISE IN SALES TO U.S.

This strong first-half advance had been achieved, Mr. Winters said, despite a slowing-down of growth in some major markets and in world trade as a whole. The sharp rise in sales to the United States was particularly noteworthy, he declared, notwithstanding the hesitant trend of industrial activity in that

WHEAT SALE TO U.S.S.R.

Trade Minister Robert Winters has announced the purchase by the Soviet Union of a minimum of 75 million bushels of Canadian wheat and flour, which will be shipped between August 1, 1967, and July 1, 1968. The contract, which has a value of about \$150 million, was concluded by the Canadian Wheat Board and Exportkhleb, the Soviet wheat agency. It is part of a three-year agreement involving 9 million tons of wheat, concluded last June in Moscow, at the time of the renewal of the Canada-U.S.S.R. Trade Agreement signed by Mr. Winters and Mr. N.S. Patolichev, the Soviet Minister of Foreign Trade.

The long-term wheat agreement provides for negotiation of specific contracts totalling 9 million tons over a three-year period beginning August 1, 1966. The sale brings total U.S.S.R. purchases under the Agreement to 5 million long tons.

In making the announcement, Mr. Winters commented on the valuable market for Canadian wheat represented by Soviet grain purchases. He looked forward, he added, to a continuing Soviet market for Canadian wheat. Both ministers pledged their efforts to the expansion of mutually-advantageous trade.

The two ministers who concluded this important arrangement between their two countries toured

country in recent months. Canada's exports to this market in the first six months of 1967 were up 19 per cent from the same period of 1966, and were half as high again as two years previously. Among Canada's overseas markets, Mr. Winters noted, the sharpest gains were being made in Japan and some Commonwealth countries. On the other hand, slower growth trends in the European Economic Community and the continuation of policies of demand restraint in Britain had had a dampening effect on sales expansion in these countries.

Details so far available in 1967 indicate that sales of automobiles and parts account for a major portion of the growth in 1967 exports. These gains reflect the sharp upsurge in two-way trade in automotive products which has accompanied the progressive rationalization of North American production operations made possible by the Automotive Agreement between Canada and the United States. Significant advances are also being achieved in other manufactured goods, particularly aircraft, machinery and equipment, and a number of consumer products. Among Canada's resource exports, figures so far available show good gains this year over last in copper, petroleum and fertilizer products.

In view of the recent slowing of demand for some commodities and in some countries, the maintenance of strong export growth in the period ahead presents a stiff challenge to the export community. Yet it is imperative that strong growth be sustained. The Department of Trade and Commerce, for its part, has been conducting a comprehensive programme designed to keep businessmen abreast of the developing opportunities in foreign markets.

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Expo '67 together on August 1. Mr. Patolichev was visiting Canada as the guest of the Minister of Trade and Commerce.

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MINING RESEARCH GRANTS

Research grants totalling \$100,000 in mining and mineral processing were announced recently by Mr. Jean-Luc Pépin, Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. The grants, awarded by the Mines Branch, are shared by 12 universities.

The mining research grants cover the following subjects: rock mechanics (the behaviour of rock under stress); problems of gas outbursts in coal seams; design of underground workings; underground environmental control; new rock-drilling methods; systems-approach methods in management; computer application to mine ventilation; blasting problems; the use of statistical theory in the replacement and maintenance of equipment; evaluation of underground haulage methods.

The grants for research in mineral processing will finance the following projects; use of hydro-cyclones in mineral beneficiation; improved ef-