CANADIAN TRADE POLICIES OUTLINED

MR. HOWE'S LONDON SPEECH: "Canada has stood ready, ever since the end of the war, to accept imports in payment for exports," the Minister of Trade and Commerce, Mr. C.D. Howe, said in an address to the Canadian Chamber of Commerce in Great Britain, in London, on June 9.

"I do not think there is any country in the world with fewer quantitative restrictions on trade or lower rates of duty," he continued. "Nor have we been content merely to accept imports. We have actively sought to promote them.

"This is particularly true about imports from Britain and the Sterling Area generally....Nothing pleased us more than to note that, in the latest month for which figures are available -- April -- your Government reports that exports from the United Kingdom to Canada were £16 million, the highest level ever attained in a single month. It is not without significance that, in the first four months of 1953, exports from the United Kingdom to the 15 million people living in Canada were almost as large as to the 160 million people living in the United States...."

WHEAT AGREEMENT

Speaking on the International Wheat Agreement, Mr. Howe said, in part:

"Both Canada and the United Kingdom are parties to the present Agreement, which expires at the end of next month. When the agreement came up for renewal, all of the 46 countries, now in the Agreement, accepted the new terms and subsequently signed the renewed Agreement, with the single exception of the United Kingdom. The explanation given for the non-adherence of the United Kingdom was that it could not agree to the proposed maximum price of $2.05 per bushel, which is based on One Northern wheat at the head of the Great Lakes, in Canada.

"Canada has no quarrel with this decision. If the United Kingdom Government does not wish to be party to an agreement embodying a ceiling of $2.05, that is its own business. The only reason that I mention the matter here is that there seems to be some misunderstanding about Canada's position.

"Let me put the point as briefly as possible: at the $2.05 maximum price, an importing country, like the United Kingdom, is under no obligation whatever to buy wheat from Canada or any other exporter. At that price the exporting countries are required to deliver their quotas, but the importing countries are under no obligation to buy. If wheat can be bought for less than $2.05, the importers are free to buy accordingly. The only obligation of the importing countries arises at the minimum price of $1.55, which all importing countries, including the United Kingdom, are willing to accept.

"I have no doubt that if the United Kingdom adheres to its decision not to join in the new Agreement, Canada will continue to sell wheat in this market. We are in as favourable a position to supply the United Kingdom as any other exporter and we will meet the competition, from whatever source it may arise. At the present time, the price for Canadian wheat sold outside the Wheat Agreement is above $2.05, and it may be above that level at the opening of the new crop season. If the United Kingdom is not a party to the Agreement, the open market price will be the price to the United Kingdom. However, we do not wish to charge the United Kingdom more than $2.05 and we would gladly support their application for accession to the Agreement at any time...."

TRIBUTE TO BRITAIN

Mr. Howe paid tribute to the qualities of the British people as exemplified in their industrial recovery.

"A country that can lead the world in jet aircraft, that can produce the Centurion tank, that can tender the lowest price for power plant equipment in the highly competitive United States market, a country that can do things like these is surely not lagging behind or lacking in energy and enterprise," he said. "There are, indeed, good reasons for the people of Britain to hope that this is not only the beginning of a new reign but the opening of a new and promising chapter in their history.

"I am encouraged to hope that we are also at the opening of a brighter chapter in commercial relations between Canada and Britain, which have been so bedevilled by the dollar problem....What Canadians want above all else is a strong and prosperous Britain and they are, I think, ready to accept without question the application of policies that seem to be contributing to that end...."

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124 TRUCKS FOR NATO ALLIES: Four European countries of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization will receive a total of 124 Canadian Army vehicles during June under the NATO mutual aid agreement, it was announced by Army Headquarters on June 3. The vehicles are trucks familiarly known in the general service class as "the workhorses of the Army".

The French Army will receive the biggest shipment, comprising 50 heavy-duty, 3-ton vehicles. Thirty similar vehicles will go to the Royal Netherlands Army, and 20 to the Belgian Army. The Royal Norwegian Army will receive 20 smaller trucks and four 3-tonners.