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CANADA'S TRADE WITH THE COMMONWEALTH

(An article by R.W. Blake, in *Foreign Trade*, March 28, 1959).

Canada's trade with the Commonwealth became increasingly important during 1958. Commonwealth countries took almost 22 per cent of total Canadian exports in that year compared with about 20 per cent in 1957, and they supplied us with about 14 per cent of our total imports compared with approximately 13 per cent last year.

Canadian exports to the Commonwealth area, including the United Kingdom, were valued at \$1,058.7 million in 1958, an increase of over \$88 million (9 per cent) compared with 1957. Nearly half of this increase, \$38.5 million, was in sales to the United Kingdom, but a substantial portion represented exports to other parts of the Commonwealth.

The products mainly responsible for this increase in trade with the Commonwealth countries covered a wide range and included wheat, barley and other cereals, flour, canned salmon, non-ferrous metals, chemicals and uranium. With the expected relaxation of import controls due to come into effect as a result of the Commonwealth Economic Conference, there are good prospects for a further rise in our trade with the Commonwealth during the present year.

Imports from Commonwealth countries in 1958 totalled approximately \$736.2 million, down \$24 million from last year. This decline, however, was small in comparison with the drop in total imports of \$427 million.

Although the value of imports from the Commonwealth was down about 3 per cent, the percentage share of Commonwealth suppliers in total imports rose by just over 1 per cent - which, incidentally, was the percentage drop in Canadian imports from the United States. The over-all balance of Commonwealth trade was in Canada's favour to the amount of \$322.5 million.

TRADE WITH THE UNITED KINGDOM

Canada's trade with the United Kingdom improved during 1958 as both exports and imports rose slightly. Canada's exports to the United Kingdom were valued at \$776 million up \$38.5 million (5 per cent) from 1957, and amounted to 16 per cent of total exports as against just over 15 per cent last year. The main products contributing to this increase were wheat, barley, canned salmon, cheese, nickel, uranium, drugs and chemicals.

Products, sales of which decreased in 1958 compared with 1957 were soya bean oilcake and meal, soya bean oil, tallow, synthetic fibre yam, Douglas Fir planks and boards, wood pulp, iron ore, iron and steel rods, aluminum, zinc, magnesium and selenium.

IMPORTS

Canadian imports from the United Kingdom increased about 1 per cent in 1958, rising from \$522 million in 1957 to approximately

(Over)