

connection, the establishment of the Organization for Trade Co-operation to administer the GATT on a continuing basis would render the agreement more effective and would have a most encouraging influence on international relations.

"The Canadian Government has consistently supported this proposed organization, and is prepared to take steps to provide for Canadian participation at the appropriate time. The United Kingdom has already indicated its acceptance, and it is our hope that all the members of GATT, and particularly the other leading trading countries whose support is essential, will similarly find it possible to join in its establishment."

Referring to concessions obtained by Canada, Mr. Howe said that the agreement concluded between Canada and the United States was one of the major agreements resulting from the conference. He explained that concessions that could be made by the United States were limited by United States legislation to maximum tariff reductions of 15 per cent, spread over the next two years, and that there were a number of items, particularly in the agricultural and fisheries fields, on which the United States was not then prepared to negotiate. Within these limitations, however, the agreements concluded should be most satisfactory to both countries, Mr. Howe said. Canada has obtained maximum concessions on a large number of products, including various chemicals, certain metals, some agricultural items, and a number of manufactured products, the Minister stated.

Speaking of the traditional and important trade relations with Europe and Latin America, Mr. Howe said it was Canada's intention to continue to strengthen these relations and to work with the countries of these areas in expanding trade in both directions. Under terms of agreements concluded with Austria, the Benelux countries, Denmark, Western Germany, Italy, Norway, Sweden, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, and Haiti, Canadian exporters will obtain useful benefits, the Minister stated. Mr. Howe noted that in the course of the negotiation it was necessary for both Canada and the United Kingdom to alter certain of the tariff preferences accorded to the other. He added that most of the reductions in margins of preference of interest to Canadian exporters in the United Kingdom were relatively minor.

The Minister of Finance, Mr. W. E. Harris, also commented on the new agreements in a statement in the House of Commons on June 7. Mr. Harris said that tariff concessions made by Canada covered 180 items or sub-items. Of these, 115 were reductions in the most-favoured-nation rates of duty, and 55 were undertakings not to raise existing rates of duty.

Mr. Harris told the Members that Canada's imports during the calendar year 1955 from all countries under the 115 items or sub-items on which the most-favoured nation tariff was reduced at Geneva amounted to \$91 million, and, from all countries under the items which were bound but not reduced, to \$88 million.

The reductions in the most-favoured-nation tariff covered a wide range of products, such as textile machinery, orange juice, lettuce, newsprint, shelled oysters, shrimps, spectacle frames, cigars, sawmill machinery, adding machines, cash registers, road building machines, electrical precision apparatus, such as is used in oil refineries and chemical works, cameras, and tobacco pipes.