

CANADIAN-JAPANESE TRADE

Question No. 1,213—Mr. Scott:

1. At the recent Japanese-Canadian trade conference in Ottawa, were representations made by Japan in opposition to the Canadian system of "voluntary" quotas on Japanese imports into Canada?

2. What was the nature of such representations, and what goods and commodities and products were involved?

3. What was the total value of exports from Japan to Canada in the first quarter of 1963, and how does this compare with the same period in 1962?

4. Briefly, what goods, products and commodities make up Japanese exports to Canada, and which of these are under quota?

5. What was the total value of exports from Canada to Japan during the first quarter of 1963, and how does this compare with the similar period in 1962?

6. Does the government have knowledge of other countries imposing similar quotas on Japanese exports and, if so, what are the names of the countries?

7. Does Canada have a trade surplus with Japan and, if so, what was the amount of the surplus in the years 1957, 1958, 1959, 1960, 1961 and 1962?

8. What was the nature of the government's response to the representations referred to in subsection 1 of this question?

Mr. Benson: 1. The Canadian-Japanese ministerial committee is not a negotiating body at which formal representations are made. The committee is intended to provide an opportunity for a free exchange of views between the ministers of the two countries on matters of common interest.

During the recent meeting in Ottawa, Japanese ministers explained some of the problems inherent in applying the Japanese system of restraints on exports of certain products to Canada; and they asked that the restraints for individual products should be discontinued as they become unnecessary. Canadian ministers explained the difficulties which had been caused in Canada by sharp and disruptive increases in imports from Japan and certain other countries in recent years. They agreed with Japanese ministers that restraints might well be removed when they had become clearly redundant. Canadian ministers also asked that Japan take all possible steps to remove quantitative and other restrictions being applied by Japan on imports of a number of important products which Canadian exporters might be able to sell to Japan.

2. See answer to (1). The discussion related generally to the products on which Japan maintains export restraints.

3. After increasing steadily since the signing of the 1954 trade agreement between Canada and Japan, Canada's imports from Japan have declined somewhat this year. In the first quarter of 1963 they totalled \$23.5 million, compared with \$26.6 million in the same quarter of 1962.

Questions

4. Canada's total imports from Japan in 1962 were valued at \$125,358,920. Principal imports were:

	Value (\$000)
Fresh oranges and mandarins	1,884
Fresh fish	1,050
Canned tuna fish	1,932
Manufactures of cotton	1,263
Worsted and woollen fabric	2,055
Fabric of synthetic fibres	3,376
Nets and netting for commercial fishing	1,429
Cotton fabric	7,657
Wearing apparel	14,169
Lumber of mahogany	1,851
Plywood	5,516
Oil country goods of steel	2,825
Bars, rods, plates, sheets, pipes and wire of iron or steel	7,739
Tables knives, forks and spoons	1,230
Domestic sewing machines	1,816
Tape recorders and parts	1,136
Transistor radios	5,150
Earthenware floor and wall tiles	1,286
Tableware of china and other earthenware	2,389
Mechanical and other toys	3,617
Re-usable import packing	1,829
Waterproof rubber footwear	1,656
Canvas footwear	1,416
Other plastic and rubber footwear	1,031
Jewellery	1,245
Cameras and parts; and other photographic accessories	3,355
Optical instruments, including microscopes and parts	1,587

A detailed list of exports to Canada subject to restraint by Japan during 1963 is contained in an appendix to *Hansard* of Friday, June 7, 1963. At the recent meeting here, Japanese ministers stated that the products on which export restraints are applied represented 27 per cent of the total value of Japan's exports to Canada in 1962.

5. First quarter 1963—\$64.4 million. First quarter 1962—\$49.1 million.

6. Japan applies restraints on exports to several countries including the United States, the United Kingdom and certain continental European nations. Several European countries apply quantitative restrictions, some of them discriminatory, on imports from Japan.

7. Canada has a trade surplus with Japan. The amount of this surplus was as follows on the basis of trade statistics published by the dominion bureau of statistics: