

their firm flesh and fine flavour. The Great Central Plain, composed of deep brown silt laid down by pre-historic floods, was opened to cultivation in the latter part of the nineteenth century when the trans-continental railways were built. Thus began Canada's wheat and grain trade. The Laurentian Shield, widespread base of old, worn-down Precambrian mountains curving in a broad horseshoe around Hudson Bay, are studded with minerals both precious and base, making Canada a foremost exporter of these raw materials.

With the expansion of industrialization brought about by the introduction of steam power in 1850 and electric power at the turn of the century, the nature of Canada's stock-in-trade began to change and grow more diverse. Canadians began to do a certain amount of processing on their raw materials before exporting them. Wood was turned into pulp and paper which became one of the leading exports. Metals were smelted, electrically refined and shipped out of the country in that form instead of in concentrated ore as formerly. Wheat was turned into flour; coarse grains fed to hogs and turned into bacon.

As export trade grew, imports also expanded. Up to 1913 Canadian trade had grown steadily through the export of staples and the import of capital equipment and manufactured consumer goods. During World War I the growth of trade was accelerated. It was interrupted by the deflation of 1920 but again expanded with business revival. During the '30's trade fell off greatly in terms of value because of the precipitous decline in prices, in terms of volume because of poor business conditions throughout the world.

World War II served to emphasize the expansion of Canadian manufacturing activities. In 1919 agriculture contributed 44 per cent to the total net value of production while manufacturing contributed 33 per cent. By 1929 manufacturing contributed 39 per cent while agriculture's share dropped to 28 per cent. In 1939 manufacturing constituted 39 per cent of the total net value of production and agriculture 28 per cent. By 1943 war production had driven the output of manufacturing to 54 per cent of the total and agriculture (although greatly expanded) represented only 20 per cent of the whole.

While a part of the wartime expansion in manufacturing was the result of demands not likely to outlast the emergency, it is probable that some of the new developments will exercise a continuing affect on the nature of Canadian export trade.

Some idea of Canada's trading picture from the end of World War I to the peak of World War II emerges from the following table:

CANADA'S EXTERNAL TRADE (excluding gold)  
(in millions of dollars)

	Exports	Imports	Visible balance of trade (Excess of exports + imports -)
1919	1,290.	941.	+ 349.
1920	1,298.	1,337.	- 39.
1925	1,252.	890.	+ 361.
1929	1,178.	1,299.	- 121.
1934	656.	513.	+ 143.
1939	936.	751.	+ 185.
1944	3,483.	1,759.	+ 1,724.

For detailed figures of the commodities Canada exported and imported from 1939 to 1945, see Canadian Information Service Reference Paper, Canadian War Data, General Series, Number 4.