

**TRADE PACT WITH SPAIN:** The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. L. B. Pearson, in the absence of the Minister of Trade and Commerce, made the following statement in the House of Commons on May 26 announcing a new trade agreement with Spain:

"A Canadian delegation headed by the Deputy Minister of Trade and Commerce has been in Spain for some time carrying on trade negotiations with Spanish officials. My colleague the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Winters) recently went to Spain to conclude the final phases of these negotiations with the Spanish Government, and to sign the resulting agreement on behalf of the Canadian Government.

"I am pleased to inform the House that an agreement has now been reached with the Spanish Government. This agreement is the first direct trade agreement between Canada and Spain. It will be signed today in Madrid by my colleague, Mr. Winters, and His Excellency Martin Artaaj, Spanish Minister of Foreign Affairs, and will come into force provisionally on July 1 of this year.

#### AGREEMENT TERMS

"The new agreement provides for the exchange of most favoured treatment with respect to customs duties and related matters. Both countries undertake not to impose discriminatory import or exchange restrictions, except for balance of payments reasons. Such restrictions must not discriminate between dollar countries. As part of the agreement, the Spanish Government has undertaken to make available import licences and dollar exchange for minimum annual import from dollar countries of 2,000 metric tons of dry salted codfish. This arrangement will improve and stabilize sales of Canadian salted cod in our traditional Spanish market.

"Canada has accorded the following tariff concessions to Spain: the binding of free entry on olives from Spain as from July 1. Formerly, olives were subject to a duty of 17.5 per cent ad valorem. We have agreed to reduce the duty on edible oil from 7.5 per cent to 5 per cent and to eliminate the one cent per pound duty on almonds. We are also making a small reduction in the duty on paprika. As mentioned earlier, these tariff concessions become effective July 1, 1954."

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Stone of all kinds was produced in Canada in 1952 to the value of \$31,000,000. Quarries in Quebec accounted for about one-half of the total, and those in Ontario for about one-third.

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**SICKNESS SURVEY:** Roughly three out of five Canadians are prevented by illness from following their normal activities at some time during the course of a 12-month period, according to figures contained in the fifth of a series of reports based on the 1950-51 Canadian sickness survey. This survey was a joint undertaking of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics; the Department of National Health and Welfare, and provincial health departments. Estimates are based on a sample of some 30,000 people, and make available for the first time figures on the volume of sickness among the general population of Canada.

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**LIONEL CONACHER'S DEATH:** Canada's greatest athlete of the half-century, Lionel Conacher, Liberal Member of Parliament representing Toronto Trinity, died on the evening of May 26 after suffering a heart attack while playing in the annual softball game on Parliament Hill between Members of Parliament and the Parliamentary Press Gallery.

Mr. Conacher had collapsed at third base in the sixth inning after hitting a triple. He died on the way to hospital.

The Prime Minister led in the tributes that were paid all across Canada to the memory of a great sportsman.

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**PRICES REPORT:** The Dominion Bureau of Statistics published on May 25 its annual report on Prices and Price Indexes. Although this 232-page publication is concerned principally with prices and price indexes for the 4-year period, 1949-52, it also contains considerable historical data extending back to 1867 in the field of wholesale prices.

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**ELECTRICITY OUTPUT:** Output of electric energy by central electric stations was slightly lower in March and the first three months of this year than a year earlier. The month's production totalled 5,765,789,000 kilowatt hours as compared with 5,779,752,000 a year earlier, bringing the three-month output to 16,551,860,000 kilowatt hours as compared with 16,691,337,000.

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Volume of highway traffic between Canada and the United States was 2% greater in February than in the corresponding month last year. Aggregate border crossings numbered 675,800 vehicles compared with 662,200.