

THIRD TRADING NATION: "The continued rapid growth in the volume of imports was the most striking feature of Canada's foreign trade in the first half of 1953," states the Review Of Foreign Trade for the half-year released on November 27 by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. "Even though import prices were lower than in 1952, the value of imports, as well as their volume, was at a record level for the post-war period.

"Exports were moderately lower than in the record first half of 1952. The decline in export values was chiefly because of falling prices. A sizeable import balance resulted from trade in the first half-year, but this was offset in Canada's international accounts by a substantial net inflow of capital.

"Canada's terms of trade were slightly better in the first half of 1953 than a year earlier, although they deteriorated a little during the half-year. The change from an export balance in 1952 to an import balance in 1953, therefore, was not due to price movements but to contrasting movements in export and import volume.

"The United States accounted for a higher proportion of Canada's trade in the first half of 1953 than in any previous post-war period. The share of Commonwealth countries other than the United Kingdom was especially low. Import restrictions by Commonwealth countries reduced their purchases of Canadian goods, while low prices for many important Commonwealth products depressed the value of imports from these countries.

Statistics for the first half of 1953 indicate that Canada is still the world's third largest trading nation, ranking just after the United States and the United Kingdom. France and the Federal Republic of Germany rank fourth and fifth respectively. However, Canada's per capita trade is much greater than that of these countries. In 1952, the last full year for which data are available, Canada's trade per capita (U.S. funds \$640) was exceeded only by that of New Zealand (U.S. funds \$707)."

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AID TO ALLIES: War aid extended by Canada to other countries in the form of grants and loans totalled \$4,100,000,000, and up to the end of 1952 net repayments amounted to \$3,900,000,000. Post-war aid totalled \$2,600,000,000, against which net repayments amounted to \$2,100,000,000 at the close of 1952. In other words, net repayments represented about 69% of the gross war and post-war aid extended.

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There were over eight times as many tractors in use on Canadian farms in 1951 as there were in 1921. The number rose from 47,455 to 399,683 in the three decades, the largest increase occurring between 1941 and 1951.

FARM IMMIGRANTS: As the eleventh annual Federal-Provincial Farm Labour Conference ended in Ottawa on November 26, it was evident that immigration would play a major role in maintaining a supply of manpower for Canadian agriculture during 1954.

During the course of the two-day conference various plans were discussed for making the best use of existing supply of farm workers, including the suggestion that everything possible be done to encourage sons to remain on the farm. However, it was obvious that although much might be developed along these lines, it was a long-range project. It was felt that the only ready answer during 1954 would be a continuation of immigration policy to channel workers into Canadian agriculture.

The delegates seemed in agreement that married farm units were more stable than single workers. It was explained by Col. Laval Fortier, Deputy Minister of Citizenship and Immigration that if the provinces wanted the most experienced farm workers obtainable they should be sought among the married group. Some delegates, while agreeing on the general suitability of the married group, pointed out that many farmers applied for single workers because they did not have adequate accommodation for married workers.

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RECORD FOREST PRODUCTION: Both volume and value of Canada's forest production reached new peak levels in 1951, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Final estimates by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics show a cut of 3,602,957,000 cubic feet of merchantable timber valued at \$782,525,000, as compared with 3,342,339,000 cubic feet valued at \$561,412,000 in the preceding year. Preliminary estimates for 1952 indicate a decrease in volume to 3,545,163,000 cubic feet.

An estimated 1,409,071,000 cubic feet of merchantable timber, or 39.1 per cent of the total for 1951, were taken out of the woods in the form of logs and bolts, chiefly for the production of lumber; 1,279,582,000 cubic feet, or 35.5 per cent were taken out as pulpwood, and 817,374,000 cubic feet or 22.7 per cent as fuelwood. The remaining 96,930,000 cubic feet or about three per cent consisted of other forest products in various forms, such as round mining timbers, poles and piling, hewn railway ties, fence posts and rails, wood for distillation, etc.

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About 83% of Canada's 1953 pack of canned peaches was packed in Ontario, and the balance in British Columbia.

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Of the 37,021 manufacturing establishments in Canada in 1951, 8,388 or 22.7% produced foods or beverages.