

declines. Preliminary export statistics for 1958 indicate that our sales abroad equalled the almost \$5 billion record set in 1957. A few items and figures may be quoted by way of example: shipments of beef cattle increased from \$42 million in 1957 to \$84 million in 1958; natural gas exports from \$2 million to \$18 million; agricultural machinery from \$70 million to \$98 million; and uranium exports from \$128 million to \$277 million.

Imports, on the basis of 11 months' figures, declined by about 9 per cent during 1958. The major reductions occurred in our purchases of capital equipment and materials from the United States. Imports from the United Kingdom were well maintained and British exporters consequently increased their share of the total Canadian market for imported goods. Another development associated with a lower rate of imports was a substantial decline in our merchandise trade deficit. This figure was reduced to \$289 million during the first 11 months of the year, as compared with \$750 million for the same period in 1957.

The changing pattern of Canada's trade is an interesting study. In the very early days, the fur trade was dominant, succeeded by timber exports, then by agricultural produce. Now, in our day, we find a gradual increase in products other than those derived from the forest and the farm, and a steady growth in the export of manufactured articles.

In 1927, the ten leading exports from Canada were: wheat, newsprint, wheat flour, planks and boards, wood pulp, fish, automobiles, meats, barley, and cheese. Thirty years later, in 1957, four of these products - namely, newsprint, wheat, planks and boards, and wood pulp retained their position, but the other six were replaced by aluminum, nickel, copper, iron ore, petroleum and asbestos.

There has been a shift also in our imports. In 1927, the ten most important were coal, machinery, crude petroleum, raw sugar, automobile parts, spirits and wines, automobiles, iron and steel products, raw rubber, and silk fabrics and velvets. In 1957, the list reads: machinery, automobile parts, petroleum, electrical apparatus, iron and steel products, tractors and parts, automobiles, pipes and tubes, internal combustion engines, and coal.

The shift in emphasis in our export trade may be seen even more clearly by considering the three major groupings - farm products, forest products and mineral products - and by comparing exports for the period 1936-39 with our exports for the year 1956. In that pre-war period, 38.4 per cent of our exports originated on our farms; in 1956, that percentage had declined to 22.7 per cent of the total. Forest products exports rose from a percentage of 24.7 to 31.6 and mineral products from 29.1 per cent to 36.7 per cent.