

FOREWORD

The statistics presented in this brochure of Canada's trade with the British West Indian Colonies and Newfoundland; as also of the total external trade of the British West Indian Colonies and Newfoundland, were specially compiled for the use of the Imperial Economic Conference, 1932. The brochure is divided into two parts; the first part presents the trade of Canada in rather complete detail with the British West Indian Colonies and Newfoundland, while the second part sets forth, also in rather complete detail, the trade of each unit of the British West Indian Colonies and Newfoundland with Empire and foreign countries as well as with the principal countries with which the various units of the Empire have exchange of commodities. The trade of these British countries has expanded so rapidly in the past few years, both in volume and value, that they offer undoubted potentialities for future trade expansion, and consequently merit careful consideration.

PART I.—TRADE OF CANADA WITH THE BRITISH WEST INDIAN COLONIES AND NEWFOUNDLAND

Table I presents Canada's total imports from and exports to the British West Indian Colonies and Newfoundland, year by year, from 1912 to 1932, while side by side are given corresponding figures for the United States, Canada's keenest competitor in these markets. During the past decade, 1922 to 1932, Canada's total imports from the British West Indian Colonies increased from \$14,460,000 to \$16,508,000, and from Newfoundland from \$1,392,000 to \$1,484,000; while exports to the British West Indian Colonies during the same period decreased from \$13,631,000 to \$12,276,000, and to Newfoundland from \$9,626,000 to \$6,901,000. The small increase in imports as also the decrease in exports was due rather to lower commodity prices in 1932, compared with 1922, than to a decrease in the volume of the import and export trade.

A preliminary survey shows in the case of imports that in 1922 Canada's imports of raw sugar from the British West Indian Colonies were: quantity, 270,002,600 pounds, valued at \$10,904,000, and that in 1932 the imports were, quantity, 558,552,900 pounds valued at \$11,304,000, and consequently if there had been no drop in the price of raw sugar and other products from 1922 to 1932, the total value of Canada's imports from the British West Indian Colonies in 1932 based on 1922 average import prices, would have been considerably in excess of \$26,000,000. With regard to exports, a survey shows in the case of flour that in 1922 Canada's exports to the British West Indian Colonies and Newfoundland were: quantity, 1,040,586 barrels, valued at \$8,922,000, and in 1932 the exports were 1,058,396 barrels, valued at \$4,263,000, and consequently if there had been no decrease in the price of flour and other products during this period Canada's total exports to these Empire countries would have shown a considerable increase rather than a decrease, as recorded.

Table II presents Canada's total trade with the British West Indian Colonies and Newfoundland as also the principal commodities imported from and exported to these British countries for the year 1914 (year before the war), 1922 (year following post-bellum boom), 1931 and 1932. From 1914 to 1932 Canada's trade with Bermuda increased from \$412,600 to \$2,044,600; imports during this period increasing from \$7,500 to \$95,700, and domestic exports from \$405,100 to \$1,948,900; the trade with British Guiana increased from \$3,831,800 to \$5,320,400, imports increasing from \$3,179,100 to \$4,541,900, and domestic exports from \$652,700 to \$778,500; the trade with British Honduras increased from \$164,700 to \$1,414,200, imports showing a decrease from \$155,400 to \$105,800, while domestic exports increased from \$9,300 to \$1,008,400; the trade with the British West Indies increased from \$8,837,200 to \$20,038,000, imports increasing from \$4,347,300 to \$11,764,900 and domestic exports from \$4,489,900 to \$8,273,100; whereas the Dominion's trade with Newfoundland increased from \$6,581,100 to \$8,085,700, imports during this period showing a decrease from \$1,840,500 to \$1,483,900, while domestic exports increased from \$4,740,600 to \$6,601,800.

It will also be noted from Table II that the principal imports from Bermuda in 1932 were: Fresh vegetables (\$55,967); articles re-imported (\$12,050); iron and steel drums, barrels, etc. (\$11,552); containers for Canadian goods (\$8,729); and florist stock (\$2,009); while the principal domestic exports were: Alcoholic beverages (\$611,200); meats (\$234,169); oats (\$100,600); milk, condensed (\$94,206); wheat flour (\$88,096); butter (\$56,512); hay (\$42,797); planks and boards (\$31,765); textiles (\$30,738); cheese (\$29,981); fish, dried, pickled, smoked (\$28,395); and potatoes (\$20,916).

The chief imports from British Guiana in 1932 were: Sugar (\$4,300,517); rum (\$163,391); molasses (\$47,813); iron and steel drums, barrels, etc. (\$16,905); and cocoanuts (\$2,234); while the main domestic exports were: Wheat flour (\$226,406); potatoes (\$56,959); fish, dried, pickled, smoked (\$48,405); milk, condensed (\$47,550); planks and boards (\$35,884); rubber manufactures (\$31,664); meats (\$28,787); oats (\$21,266); textiles (\$19,678); fish, canned or preserved (\$17,926); automobiles (\$10,917); and butter (\$8,522).

During the year 1932 Canada's leading imports from British Honduras were: Chicle gum (\$81,339) and cocoanuts (\$23,437); while the leading exports to British Honduras were: Alcoholic beverages (\$651,631); milk, condensed (\$72,536); wheat flour (\$53,951); rubber manufactures (\$24,437); textiles (\$10,241); butter (\$9,049); automobiles (\$8,085); cheese (\$5,919); and meats (\$5,376).

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