

STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

INFORMATION DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
OTTAWA - CANADA

No. 59/10

CANADA'S EXPANDING TRADE

An address by Mr. Gordon Churchill, Minister of Trade and Commerce, to the Canadian Club of Toronto, on February 2, 1959.

Canada's expanding trade is a subject of great importance, for throughout our history exports have played a major role in the economic life of our country. An abundance of natural resources has led to the production of materials greatly in excess of domestic needs. These surpluses of resource products are the basis of Canada's position as the fourth largest exporter in the world. Our total trade of exports and imports, amounting each year to \$600 per person, and to a total of over \$10 billion has made Canada the foremost trading nation of the world. It is estimated that one out of every five Canadians is dependent for his livelihood on our export trade.

Trade has been important to your great city from its earliest days. In 1803, ten years after the founding of York by Sir John Graves Simcoe, there is a record of exports to Lower Canada consisting of the following items:

18,000 feet of Black Walnut boards and planks
350 feet of Red Cedar Timber,
Flour, pork, beef, hams, pot and pearl ash,
Two barrels of essence of spruce and some hog's lard.

From that time onward, Toronto has provided a stimulus and drive towards trade that has made this city one of the most important on the continent and a leader in the life of Canada.

With the development of our country, Canada's exports have continued to grow both in volume and variety. Within the last decade, a major broadening of Canada's export base has occurred. Despite the recent decline of about 7 per cent in world trade, Canada's sales in foreign markets have been maintained. Shipments of some of our principal forest and mineral products were reduced, but increased exports of wheat, uranium, beef cattle, natural gas, farm implements and aircraft offset these