

GOVERNMENT



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PRESS RELEASE

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
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MONDAY, APRIL 26, 1954.

The Department of External Affairs announced today that a trade delegation headed by the Deputy Minister of Trade and Commerce, Mr. W.F. Bull, is leaving today for Portugal and Spain to commence trade negotiations with these countries.

The delegation will include Mr. Maurice Schwarzmann of the Department of Trade and Commerce, and Mr. George Glass of the Department of Finance. Mr. J. Lawes of the Newfoundland Associated Fish Exporters Limited will accompany the delegation.

Note for Correspondents:-

Canada's Trade with Portugal and Spain

Portugal and Spain are not Contracting Parties to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. At the present time Canada and metropolitan Portugal accord the products of each other most-favoured-nation tariff treatment on the basis of a Treaty of Commerce and Navigation concluded between the United Kingdom and Portugal in 1914 and made applicable to Canada by virtue of an Exchange of Notes of 1928. Canada and Spain exchange most-favoured-nation treatment in trade and tariff matters on the basis of a Treaty of Commerce and Navigation which was concluded between the United Kingdom and Spain in 1922 and made applicable to Canada by virtue of an Exchange of Notes of 1928.

Total trade between Canada and Portugal and its overseas territories in recent years has amounted to between \$6.5 - \$9.5 million a year. Total Canadian exports to Portugal and its territories in 1953 were valued at \$6,408,902 and imports at \$2,227,266.

The main Canadian exports to Portugal are: salt codfish, wheat and smaller shipments of other products including farm implements, asbestos, aluminum, newsprint and drugs. Canadian exports to Portuguese Africa include wheat and wheat flour, planks and boards, milk powder, trucks and cars, asbestos fibres, etc. Canadian imports from Portugal consist largely of almonds, wines, canned anchovies and sardines, cork slabs and boards; Canadian imports from the Azores and Madeira consist of cotton clothing, sheets and other made-up textiles. Portuguese Africa supplies small quantities of sisal fibre and green coffee.

In the past eight or nine years Spain has had a yearly trade surplus of \$2 - \$3 million with Canada except in 1950 and 1953 when large shipments of Canadian wheat reversed the position. Total imports from Spain and its overseas territories in 1953 were valued at \$4,650,028 and exports at \$14,261,837.

The main Canadian exports to Spain in recent years have been wheat, newsprint, salt codfish, sulphite pulp, iron and steel bars, brass bars, ferro-manganese, asbestos and synthetic resins. Imports consist largely of olives and olive oil, almonds, wines, cork, mercury, tungsten and coarse salt. Peanuts were also imported in substantial amounts in 1953.
