

VIII.—TRADE AND COMMERCE.

This section of the Canada Year Book is divided broadly into two sub-sections dealing with external and internal trade respectively. The first of these commences with a short history of Canadian external trade, the Canadian tariff, and recent developments in external trade. This is followed by 9 tables showing the historical development of Canadian external trade, and these again by numerous tables constituting a study of current external trade for post-war fiscal years, analysing exports and imports by groups, by articles, by degree of manufacture, by purpose for which commodities are used, and by countries of shipment or of destination. In view of the specially close trade relations between Canada and the West Indies, whose products are in so many cases complementary to our own, the sub-section continues with a historical and "current trend" study of our West Indian trade, and concludes with tables compiled from British and United States trade reports, showing for recent years the agricultural commodities supplied by various competing countries to the great world-market of the United Kingdom, and the agricultural commodities exported from the United States.

The sub-section on Internal Trade commences with an analysis of grain trade statistics, followed by a treatment of the marketing of live stock and animal products. Statistics of commodities in cold storage are given, together with figures of the coal trade, and the sub-section is brought to a conclusion by a statistical treatment of bounties, patents, copyrights and trade marks.

I.—EXTERNAL TRADE.

1.—Historical Sketch of External Trade and Tariffs.

In the early history of the American continent each of the different European nations establishing settlements in the New World endeavoured to monopolize the commerce of its colonies, prohibited the ships of other nations from resorting to them, and prohibited its colonials from importing European goods from other countries, generally granting them, however, preferential treatment in its own market. Under these circumstances the colonial wars in America were carried on, by governments permeated by the mercantile spirit, for "ships, colonies and commerce." Owing to this fact, wars resulting in the transfer of colonies from one European power to another involved great economic as well as political changes in the community so transferred. The traders who had previously controlled the trade between the colonial power and its colony found their occupations gone, while new traders from the conquering state arrived to take over the import and export trade, which thereafter flowed in new channels, perhaps no more artificial than those which had previously existed.

Throughout the earlier part of the French *régime* in Canada the foreign trade of the colony was in the hands of the monopolistic chartered companies, of which the Company of One Hundred Associates was the most notable. When its monopoly was cancelled in 1663, the foreign trade of Canada still remained a preserve of the merchants of Old France. Upon the conquest of the country by the British, the French merchants who had their offices in Quebec and Montreal for the most part returned to France, and the trade of the colony fell into the hands of the traders from England, Scotland and New England, who had swarmed into the country at the heels of the invading armies. Some of their descendants are still among the leaders in Canadian import and export trade.