

2.—General Analysis of Current Import and Export Trade.

The external trade of Canada, in common with that of every other country in the world, suffered a severe decline, both in volume and in value, following the war. The decline in value was, however, owing to lower prices, very much greater than that in volume, as is shown in Table 36 of this section.

The fiscal year ended Mar. 31, 1922, marked the low point in the recent history of Canadian trade, which during the four latest fiscal years has been steadily recovering from the depression of 1921-2. The fiscal year ended Mar. 31, 1926, was a period of extraordinarily active trade, especially in respect of exports, the value of which was exceeded in only one year in our history, *viz.*, 1918, when values were very much inflated. In the latest fiscal year ended Mar. 31, 1927, exports declined owing to lower prices of agricultural products, while imports increased.

Analysis of External Trade.—The external trade of Canada for the fiscal year ended Mar. 31, 1927, amounted to \$2,298,465,647, compared with \$2,256,028,869 in 1926 and \$1,878,294,180 in 1925, the increase over 1926 amounting to \$42,436,778 or 1.9 p.c., and over 1925 to \$420,171,467 or 22.3 p.c. Imports show an improvement over the years 1926 and 1925, while exports show a decline compared with 1926, but an increase over 1925. In 1927 Canada's import trade was valued at \$1,030,892,505, as compared with \$927,328,732 in 1926 and \$796,932,537 in 1925, the increase over 1926 amounting to \$103,563,773 or 11.1 p.c., and over 1925 to \$233,959,968 or 29.3 p.c., while export trade in 1927 (domestic and foreign combined) was valued at \$1,267,573,142, compared with \$1,328,700,137 in 1926, and \$1,081,361,643 in 1925; the decrease compared with 1926 amounted to \$61,126,995 or 4.6 p.c., whereas the increase compared with 1925 amounted to \$186,211,499 or 17.2 p.c. During the past three fiscal years the exports from Canada, distinguishing domestic from foreign, were:—

Fiscal years ended	Canadian exports.	Foreign exports.	Total exports.
	\$	\$	\$
1925.....	1,069,067,353	12,294,290	1,081,361,643
1926.....	1,315,355,791	13,344,346	1,328,700,137
1927.....	1,252,157,506	15,415,636	1,267,573,142

The domestic exports of Canada for 1927 show a decrease compared with similar exports in 1926 of \$63,198,285 or 4.8 p.c., but an increase over 1925 of \$183,090,153, or 17.1 p.c. The United States had a population of 75,000,000 before the total foreign trade of that country was as large as that of Canada today.