

Section 4.—The Tourist Trade of Canada.¹

Tourist Expenditures in Canada.—In recent years the tourist trade has become an important source of revenue in certain sections of the Dominion, materially affecting the balance of trade. It represents the economic disposition of national assets in which Canada is particularly rich, namely: its picturesque scenery; its invigorating climate; its opportunities for hunting, fishing and boating, as well as for winter sports—for the exploitation of which a considerable capital expenditure has been made on hotel accommodation, improved highways and other attractions. Those entering from the United States in automobiles are by far the most important class of tourists. The business accruing to the Dominion in this manner represents some return for expenditures on highways which have been very large in the period since the War (see pp. 682-684). In order to attract this traffic, highways have been built through regions of picturesque scenery, such as the Rocky mountains, northern Ontario and the Laurentians and Gaspé in Quebec. A further asset for Canada arises from the fact that these scenic regions with their invigorating climate are at their best in the summer holiday season when motorists are most ready to travel. The expenditure of travellers coming to Canada from other countries on business has the same effect, so far as its influence on the balance of trade is concerned, as the export of additional commodities would have. Indeed, in so far as commodities are sold to tourists travelling in the Dominion, our exportable surplus of such commodities is reduced.

It is impossible to obtain a direct record of expenditures of this kind. Moreover, even a rough estimate of the total is extremely difficult to make, visitors to Canada being of all classes, engaging in widely different activities or forms of recreation, remaining for varying periods, with expenditures undoubtedly ranging from very small to very large amounts.

The tourists who enter Canada may be divided into three classes: (a) those coming in *via* ocean ports; (b) those entering from the United States in automobiles; (c) those entering from the United States by rail or steamer. In 1932 these classes are estimated, according to recently revised figures, to have expended in Canada \$10,543,000, \$145,307,000 (equivalent to \$159,838,000 in Canadian funds at average rates of exchange for the period) and about \$38,243,000 (\$42,067,000 in Canadian funds) respectively, or a grand total of approximately \$194,093,000 (about \$212,448,000 in Canadian funds).

The Department of National Revenue records the number of tourists entering Canada in automobiles from the United States through each of the ports of entry along the border. An estimate of the expenditure of this class of tourist according to the provinces by which they entered, shows the following provincial distribution of their expenditure in 1932: Maritime Provinces, \$8,366,830; Quebec, \$35,903,644; Ontario, \$87,482,247; Manitoba, \$1,606,729; Saskatchewan, \$630,769; Alberta, \$613,850 and British Columbia, \$10,622,601.

Expenditures of Canadian Tourists Abroad.—Canadian tourists visiting other countries travel in the main to the British Isles and other European countries on visits home, or as sight-seers. Again, many of them, especially elderly or delicate persons, go to Florida, Bermuda or the West Indies. These tourists may be classi-

¹Abridged from "The Tourist Trade in Canada, 1920-26", and reports for each year from 1927 to 1932 inclusive, published by the Bureau of Statistics and obtainable on application. These reports contain a full explanation of the methods used in making the estimates.