

CHAPTER XVI.—EXTERNAL TRADE.

This chapter commences with a historical sketch of Canadian external trade, the Canadian tariff, and recent developments in external trade, followed by a brief account of the Commercial Intelligence Service. Thereafter is to be found a treatment of statistics of external trade under ten subordinate headings: value and quantum* of world trade; historical statistics of Canadian trade; general analysis of current import and export trade; trade with the United Kingdom and the British Empire; trade with the United States and other foreign countries; geographical distribution of Canadian trade by continents and countries; principal commodities imported and exported; trade in raw and manufactured products; main historical tables and tables showing current trends (Tables 1 to 21); and comparison of the volumes of imports and exports (Table 22). Formerly, a subsection was included before the main tables dealing with Canada's position in international trade but, since this subject is fully covered under the value and quantum of world trade, the separate subsection has been discontinued. The chapter is finally brought to a close with sections on the tourist trade of Canada, and on Canada's balance of international payments in recent years.

Section 1.—The Development of Tariffs.

The development of tariffs as affecting Canada is here outlined under two divisions: first, a historical sketch showing phases in the growth of Canadian trade which have influenced tariff development; and second, the present tariff relationships with other countries. Owing to the limitations of space in the Year Book, it is impossible to go into detail with such an intricate matter as tariffs. It has therefore been necessary to adopt the policy of confining any detail regarding commodities and countries to tariff relationships at present in force, and to summarize as much as possible historical data and details of preceding tariffs, giving references where possible to those editions of the Year Book where extended treatments can be found.

Subsection 1.—Historical Sketch of External Trade and Tariffs.

In the early history of the American continent each of the 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. In 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 mother country 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.

* The term "quantum" is commonly used in international discussions of trade and has a more precise application than the more general term "volume". For this reason it is retained in the analyses of international trade made here, although in line with the common practice in Canada, "volume" is used in the