CHAPTER XVI.—EXTERNAL TRADE*

CONSPECTUS

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General Review

External trade in commodities is only a part, though a very important part, of the broader field made up of the international exchange of values comprising goods, services, securities, etc. This relationship is shown in its proper proportions in Part III of this Chapter. However, since commodity exports and imports constitute the largest factor in Canada's international transactions, and the one in which the greatest majority of Canadians are most vitally interested, this Chapter is devoted chiefly to the consideration of commodity trade. During the war years, commodity movements and destinations have been quite abnormal and have given rise to a situation that is already causing some concern, in its bearing on post-war trade, but for which plans are being made. The salient aspects of this situation are summarized here.

When the volume of Canadian war production is reduced, both the size and composition of Canadian exports will undergo marked changes. In any attempt to analyse post-war conditions of trade, certain facts must be realistically examined. The national income of Canada for the latest pre-war year, 1938, was \$4,288,000,000; in 1943 it is estimated to have reached \$8,724,000,000; and in 1944 about \$9,186,000,000. This high level has been attained under the impetus of all-out war and the almost unlimited demands for exports of foodstuffs and munitions. In order to maintain present standards of living in Canada, to keep employment at a high level, and to provide for the social legislation already on the statute books, it has been estimated that the national income in post-war years should be not less

^{*} This Chapter has been prepared in close co-operation with the various branches of the Department of Trade and Commerce. The figures in Part II are compiled from the various reports of the External Trade Branch of the Bureau of Statistics. The information under Part III, and certain of the data in the General Review has been furnished by C. D. Blyth, B.A., Chief of International Payments Branch, Bureau of Statistics.