

The attention of exporters and potential exporters is directed to opportunities for the disposal of their products in markets abroad, and of importers to the sources of supply for raw materials and consumer goods unobtainable in this country. Its principal educational and informative medium is "Foreign Trade", the weekly publication of the Foreign Trade Service, in which are reproduced reports of Canadian Trade Commissioners on conditions in their respective territories, articles by Head Office personnel and economists of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, news items and charts portraying trade trends. Press releases are prepared and distributed to newspapers at home, and material of a similar character despatched to Canadian Trade Commissioners for distribution to newspapers abroad. Pamphlets and brochures are prepared to supplement other information on foreign markets, sources of supply, documentation, regulations and trade restrictions. Assistance is rendered to correspondents of newspapers and periodicals at home and abroad in the preparation of articles pertaining to various phases of Canada's foreign trade. The educational and promotional work of this Division is supported by advertising at home and abroad. The daily press, periodicals and trade papers, as well as films and radio, are also employed. Although the Information Division is part of the Foreign Trade Service, its functions have been expanded to include assistance to the associated agencies of the Department of Trade and Commerce concerned with the development of foreign trade. For example, it handles publicity connected with the projects undertaken by the Canadian Government Exhibition Commission in this and other countries.

Canadian Commercial Corporation.—The Canadian Commercial Corporation was established on May 1, 1946, by Act of Parliament to assist in the development of trade between Canada and other nations, to assist persons in Canada to obtain goods and commodities from outside Canada, and to dispose of goods and commodities that are available for export from Canada.

By the terms of the Act, the Corporation assumed the whole of the undertaking of the Canadian Export Board, which was established by Order in Council P.C. 70, of Jan. 31, 1944. This agency was at that time carrying out procurement functions in Canada on behalf of foreign governments, the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration, and the Canadian Mutual Aid Board. As a result, the Corporation continued without interruption all procurement action being taken on Apr. 30, 1946, by the Canadian Export Board, and has continued to render similar services to a number of foreign governments, particularly those to which Canada has extended loans. The Corporation is in a position to assist Canadians and Canadian Government agencies in the procurement of goods from other countries, when it is necessary that the transactions be handled through a Government agency.

Since Feb. 1, 1947, the Corporation has effected, on behalf of the Minister concerned, the procurement of supplies and the construction of projects required in the interests of national defence. The Defence Supplies Act of 1950 now vests this responsibility in the Minister of Trade and Commerce who employs the Canadian Commercial Corporation as procurement agency for this purpose.

The Corporation, therefore, has three separate but related functions. It acts as procurement agency in Canada for foreign governments; it is available to assist Canadian importers; and, in effect, it acts as agent for the Minister of Trade and Commerce in procurement of defence supplies and the carrying out of defence projects.