

brokerage houses. New moves by foreign governments which affect the movement of Canadian goods, changes in rates and regulations established by private steamship companies and the pattern of Canada's foreign trade as related to its carrying services are all kept under constant review. The Division maintains a Canadian Trade Services Directory which contains information concerning Canadian customs requirements, invoicing, packaging, merchandising, forwarding facilities, steamship services, rail transportation and marketing data. This information enables the Trade Commissioners to obtain for Canada recognition as an organized market and to facilitate the establishment of closer working arrangements between Canadian firms and their foreign connections.

The Export and Import Permit Division is responsible for the administration of controls on the movement of scarce commodities and strategic materials subject to regulation under the powers of the Export and Import Permits Act. Control is exercised over the export of arms and munitions, implements of war, atomic energy materials and other strategic items. In collaboration with foreign governments, this Division also operates an import certificate and delivery verification procedure, instituted as an insurance against critically important shipments being diverted to undesirable destinations. The number and types of commodities under control change materially from time to time, reflecting the constant effort to remove restrictions as soon as the necessity for them disappears.

Agriculture and Fisheries Branch.—The section of the Commodities Branch engaged in trade promotional work on agricultural commodities, other than wheat and coarse grains, was established as a separate Branch in 1950. The Fisheries Section of the Commodities Branch and the Wheat and Grain Division were amalgamated with the new Agricultural Commodities Branch early in 1952, thus completing the centralization of the food and agricultural activities of the Department within the Agriculture and Fisheries Branch.

The primary function of the Agriculture and Fisheries Branch is to promote Canadian exports and imports of agricultural and fisheries products by assisting Canadian exporters in finding markets for their products abroad and in helping to locate sources of supply for products which Canadian importers wish to obtain from other countries. Canadian firms are given advice with respect to market conditions in other countries, competition to be met from other suppliers, import and exchange restrictions and related matters. In turn, Trade Commissioners are kept informed of production and price trends in Canada, products available for export and sources of supply.

In fish producing or importing countries, Trade Commissioners report to the Branch regularly on matters relating to fish. In addition, the four Fisheries Trade Commissioners located in important markets report on developments in those markets. This information is analysed and passed on to the industry and to provincial and federal government officials. Similarly, nine Agricultural Trade Commissioners located in important markets for Canadian agricultural products, or in countries which produce and export commodities competitive with Canada, report to the Branch on related economic conditions and agricultural developments in those countries. The information so received is analysed and made available to those interested. Reports by Trade Commissioners, in countries other than those covered by the Agricultural Trade Commissioners, are received from time to time and are handled in a like manner. Much of the material relating to agriculture and fisheries received from abroad is published in *Foreign Trade*.