

Information Branch.—The principal function of the Information Branch is to furnish the commercial community of Canada with information concerning the assistance that exporters and importers may obtain from the Department of Trade and Commerce. The Branch is responsible also for stimulating a better appreciation by the general public of the importance of trade to the welfare of Canada. 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 Canada. 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 dispatched 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 Branch is supported by advertising at home and abroad, through the daily press, periodicals and trade papers as well as films and radio.

Canadian Government Exhibition Commission.—The Canadian Government Exhibition Commission by graphic media of all kinds publicizes Canada and helps to sell Canadian products abroad. The Commission is solely responsible for the construction and administration of Federal Government exhibits at international expositions, trade fairs and displays outside Canada and of international expositions and trade fairs held in Canada and sponsored by the Government of Canada. The Commission's first fulfilment of the latter responsibility was the development of the Canadian International Trade Fair, held annually at Toronto since 1948.

The Commission also co-operates with Canadian exporters in securing representation for goods at trade fairs and trade promotional displays and is equipped to advise individual Canadian companies in the preparation of exhibits. It distributes at its various presentations large quantities of literature produced by other government departments and agencies.

Export Credits Insurance Corporation.—The Export Credits Insurance Corporation was established under the provisions of the Export Credits Insurance Act, 1944, and as amended in August 1946 and May 1948. The Corporation, which is administered by a board of directors including the Deputy Minister of Trade and Commerce, the Deputy Minister of Finance and the Governor of the Bank of Canada, insures exporters against losses arising from credit and political risks involved in the export or an agreement for the export of goods. Policies are generally issued on a yearly basis, covering exporters' sales to all countries. The main risks covered include: insolvency or protracted default on the part of the buyer; exchange restrictions in the buyer's country preventing the transfer of funds to Canada; cancellation of an import licence or the imposition of restrictions on the importation of goods not previously subject to restrictions; the occurrence of war between the buyer's country and Canada, or of war, revolution, etc., in the buyer's country.