Canada than it was then, partly because of Canada's wealth of raw materials and hydro-electric power, and partly because the tariffs of the United States and many other countries prevent the development of a large export market for fine papers while permitting the growth of newsprint exports. Wider uses of wood pulp in the textile and chemical industries as well as in the paper industry haye led to a very sharp gain in exports of this commodity. Also the international postwar building boom has raised exports of lumber—the original base of Canada's forest industry—to unprecedented heights. However none of these leading forest products rival the position of dominance among Canadian exports that was held by wheat in the 1920's. During 1951-54 newsprint accounted for only 15 p.c. of exports and lumber and wood pulp for 7 p.c. each.

The expansion of exports of mineral origin reflects the discovery of more mineral deposits in Canada—western oil and Quebec-Labrador iron ore are the most spectacular postwar examples—together with a tendency to refine or further manufacture more of these metals before export. In this connection it should be noted that growth in the mixed origin group also reflects the increase of manufacturing activity in Canada. Today a very important part of Canada's mineral exports is actually produced from non-Canadian ores—aluminum, the leading export metal, is entirely produced from non-Canadian ores. Here again the diminished commodity concentration of Canadian exports is evident. Aluminum accounted for only 4 p.c. of exports in 1951-54, and lead, the fifth-ranking metal, for 1 p.c.

A smaller but still significant change is evident within the marine origin group of exports. The development of rapid transport and improved refrigeration has altered the nature of fish exports from chiefly salted, dried or canned in the 1920's, to chiefly fresh and frozen in the 1950's. Thus this important export industry has held its own in a period when the quality of food demanded in most countries was generally rising.

Changes in the industrial origin of imports are considerably less pronounced but still highly significant. As in the case of exports the importance of imports of farm origin has been sharply reduced. Although their absolute value more than doubled from 1926-29 to 1951-54 their share in total imports fell from two-fifths to little more than one-fifth. The sharpest relative gains have come in the manufactured goods categories of the mineral origin and mixed origin groups, reflecting the great importance of capital goods and consumer durables in Canadian expenditure in the postwar period, and also the rise of the chemical industries and the parallel substitution of synthetics for many natural materials.

Other important trends have affected imports of raw materials of mineral origin. The rise of the aluminum industry in Canada during the past twenty years has tended to increase the value of imports in this category. So for a time did the general expansion of industry in Canada and the growing use of automobiles and aircraft requiring increasing amounts of fuels. However new discoveries of oil and gas in Canada in the postwar period and the consequent switch from coal has braked the growth of this category of imports. Though still increasing in absolute value, imports of raw materials of mineral origin have declined from 14 p.c. of total imports in 1946-49 to less than 11 p.c. in 1951-54, a trend that may be expected to continue for some time.

Another development clearly illustrated in Table 4 is the more rapid growth of both exports and imports of partly and fully manufactured goods as compared with trade in raw materials. In the fiscal years 1926-29 raw materials accounted for about 47 p.c. of exports and 25 p.c. of imports, but by the calendar years 1951-54 these ratios had fallen to about 31 p.c. and 21 p.c. respectively. However despite the decline in the proportion of exports shipped in unprocessed form, the basis of Canada's trade still remains in the exchange of plentiful natural resources for the labour and capital embodied in foreign manufactures.