

pronounced expansion the percentage increases, as in 1951 when it was 34 p.c.; conversely in periods of slower growth it declines, as in 1954 when imports accounted for about 25 p.c. of the Canadian market.

Imports have held an almost continuously larger share of the market for structurals and piling than for any other type of steel. Since 1946 structural imports averaged 56 p.c. of Canadian consumption of this type of steel. Such imports are particularly important in those periods in which there is considerable resource investment. Canadian capacity to produce structurals has averaged less than 60 p.c. of total requirements during the past five years.

#### V.—IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF STEEL ROLLING-MILL PRODUCTS, 1946-57

NOTE.—Primary rolling-mill products only are included and not such secondary products as pipe, wire, nails and stampings. SOURCE: DBS report *The Primary Iron and Steel Industry*.

Year	Imports	Exports	Year	Imports	Exports
	'000 tons	'000 tons		'000 tons	'000 tons
1946.....	655	105	1952.....	1,187	73
1947.....	818	98	1953.....	1,001	116
1948.....	779	233	1954.....	764	36
1949.....	964	142	1955.....	929	165
1950.....	834	59	1956.....	1,609	158
1951.....	1,318	46	1957.....	1,493	205

Imports of plates are an important item and have accounted on the average for 41 p.c. of the total plate market since 1946. Plates are associated with the resource-development program and, in particular, the manufacture of the large-size transmission pipe. At present Canada's capacity to produce wide plate is limited, and this size of plate has always had a considerable import volume. The expansion of Canadian plate facilities now under way should in the future effect a decline in the share of the market held by plate imports.

On the other hand, Canadian producers of bar and rod have traditionally held a large share of the market, and imports have accounted for only 12 p.c. of total demand since 1946. Imports are usually important only in those years in which domestic demand is well in excess of Canadian supply. The most important import of this type of steel is hot-rolled bars.

#### VI.—IMPORTS OF MAJOR STEEL ROLLING-MILL PRODUCTS, SELECTED YEARS 1946-57

SOURCE: DBS report *The Primary Iron and Steel Industry*.

Type of Steel	1946	1948	1950	1953	1957
	'000 tons	'000 tons	'000 tons	'000 tons	'000 tons
Structurals.....	95	162	156	254	543
Plate.....	60	66	107	154	311
Bar and rod.....	99	121	85	132	144
Sheet and strip.....	326	342	285	304	201
Pipe and tube.....	41	75	204	300	722

Steel sheet and strip imports have averaged 37 p.c. of total domestic consumption of this type of steel since 1946, but with increasing Canadian capacity the import trend is downward, particularly of galvanized sheet and cold-rolled sheet and strip. Pipes and tubes have been major import items since 1950, noticeably so in oil country goods. However, the growth in domestic capacity to produce pipe and tube has reached the point where it can meet all Canadian requirements and will offer serious competition to foreign producers in the domestic market. Imports of wire, fencing and rails have also been extensive. Unlike many other steel imports, which generally reach their peak in periods of short supply, imports of these items have been almost continuously in direct competition with Canadian producers. Canadian capacity to produce wire, fencing and rails is generally in excess of domestic demand.