CHAPTER XX.—FOREIGN TRADE

CONSPECTUS

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The interpretation of the symbols used in the tables throughout the Year Book will be found facing p. 1 of this volume.

The subject of foreign trade covers more than the treatment of exports and imports of commodities, important though this is. In its broader sense foreign trade is made up of the total international interchange of goods, services, securities and other financial transactions, all of which are presented in their appropriate relationship in this Chapter. Following Part I, which is a review of Canada's trade during recent years, Part II gives detailed statistics of external commodity trade. Part III outlines the various ways in which the Federal Government promotes and encourages trade relationships, and contains a brief review of the Canadian tariff structure. Part IV gives a fairly detailed review of the extent of international travel between Canada and other countries in 1960 with estimates of the amount of money expended for this purpose.

PART I.—RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN CANADA'S FOREIGN TRADE*

The value of Canada's external trade in 1961 was considerably greater than in any previous year. Total trade—exports and imports together—was valued at \$11,666,800,000 in 1961, an increase of 7.3 p.c. above the total for the previous year of \$10,869,500,000. For the first time since 1952 there was an export trade surplus, which amounted to \$124,700,000 as compared with an import balance of \$95,900,000 in 1960. Both exports and imports showed gains, particularly in the last half of the year, although part of this increase was a reflection of the difference in the exchange value of the Canadian dollar. Total exports rose by 9.4 p.c. in 1961, advancing to \$5,895,700,000 from \$5,386,800,000 in 1960, and imports gained 5.3 p.c., increasing to \$5,771,000,000 in 1961 as against \$5,482,700,000 in the preceding year.

Over the period from 1956 to 1960 export prices remained relatively stable, declining fractionally in the first three years and then advancing by 1.8 p.c. in 1959 and very slightly in 1960. During 1961, the average index of export prices rose approximately 1 p.c. but

^{*} Prepared in the External Trade Division, Dominion Bureau of Statistics.