

Commodities Branch.—The Commodities Branch is responsible for maintaining the liaison with industry and with export and import trades essential to the foreign trade promotion work of the Department. The Branch assembles trade information and data on products for use by Trade Commissioners in posts abroad, and officers of the Branch maintain contact with industry through personal visits and by exchange of correspondence with this purpose in view. Through correspondence with Canadian Government Trade Commissioners abroad, officers of the Branch are able to follow conditions in foreign markets and to supply this information for the benefit of Canadian traders.

The Branch contains commodity specialists organized in three divisions: the Machinery and Metals Division, the Forest Products and Chemicals Division, and the Consumer Goods Division. Within these Divisions, individual commodity specialists are concerned with such particular groups of products as machine tools and plant equipment, non-ferrous metals, steel, chemicals, lumber, leather and rubber, as well as a very wide range of consumer products. It is the function of the commodity specialist to call the attention of Trade Commissioners to changes in supply conditions and to products available for export. They also relay market news received from Trade Commissioners to Canadian manufacturers and exporters. Close attention is paid to developing opportunities for promoting sales abroad of Canadian products, and exporters are informed about regulations governing foreign trade.

Agriculture and Fisheries Branch.—The main functions of this Branch include: (1) trade promotion relating to agricultural and fisheries products; (2) the programming, receiving and disseminating of information on foreign agriculture and fisheries; and (3) acting as a focal point for liaison on agricultural and fisheries matters with the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Fisheries, the Canadian Wheat Board, and other government departments and boards.

In the field of trade promotion, the Grain Division and the Food and Agriculture Division assist Canadian exporters of agricultural and fisheries products in finding markets in other countries. Canadian firms are supplied with information with respect to market conditions and requirements in foreign markets, competition from other sources of supply, exchange and tariff restrictions and other related information. Canadian Trade Commissioners throughout the world are kept fully informed on such matters as production and price trends in Canada, quantities of commodities available for export and sources of supply.

The Grain Division deals specifically with matters relating to Canada's grain trade. Assistance is rendered foreign governments and other buyers in the purchase of Canadian wheat, flour and other cereals. Close contact is maintained with the flour millers as well as daily liaison with the Canadian Wheat Board.

The Commodity Officers concerned with live stock, live-stock products, meat, dairy and poultry products, fruits and vegetables, and fish and fisheries products, keep in contact with the trade and trade organizations dealing with these commodities. They are in close touch with the officers of other departments of government concerned with the disposition of Canadian production surplus to domestic requirements, and who are responsible for such items as health standards, grading and inspection.