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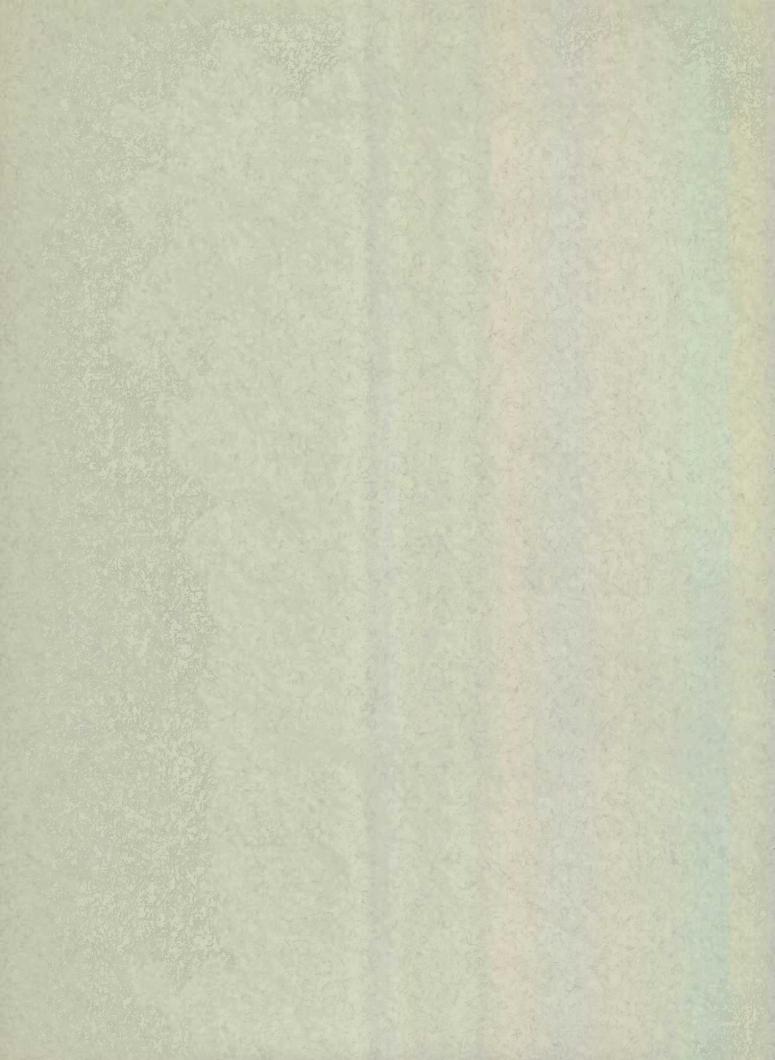
DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS

INTERNAL TRADE BRANCH

CANADA'S BALANCE OF INTERNATIONAL PAYMENTS

1926-1932

Published by Authority of the HON. H. H. STEVENS, M. P., Minister of Trade and Commerce.



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DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND COMMERCE DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS - CANADA INTERNAL TRADE BRANCH

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Canadian Balance of International Payments Statement 1926-1932

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FOREWORD

Canadian Balance of International Payments

- 1. "Balance of Trade" figures are frequently misinterpreted due to the persistence of an old doctrine long ago exploded that a nation's trade is in a healthy state when exports exceed imports necessitating an import of gold to make up the difference. Trade was then said to show a "favourable balance". This theory only took account of the "visible" or commodity items of trade, whereas a true statement of a nation's international position can only be known when not only the commodity items are considered, but also the "invisible" items such as interest, freight, immigrant remittances, financial services, tourist traffic, etc. In short, all debit and credit transactions must be considered - all the valuable things received from other countries must be balanced against all the valuable things transferred to other countries during a given period of time. This account must balance; if it does not balance the fault lies with the inadequacy of the estimates for individual items. Many of these estimates are bound to be rough approximations. Errors and omissions are inevitable. Where direct estimates of capital borrowings and lendings are not made, it is customary to regard the balancing item as representing the net capital movement and the inevitable margin of error.
- 2. A nation's balance of international payments, therefore, may be defined as a tabular presentation of the amounts of the various visible and invisible exports and imports of the country, so arranged as to show their comparative size and interrelationships, their influence upon foreign exchange and upon international gold movements. Such a compilation is indispensable for a study of the country's financial and economic position and policies.

 Among its more important uses may be mentioned the following:

- (1) It gives a comprehensive picture of a country's international debits and credits and how they are balanced.
 - (2) It shows the extent of international borrowings and lendings.
- (3) It shows the magnitude of individual invisible items, such as interest, freights and tourist expenditures in international transactions.
- (4) It explains exchange disturbances and the effect of international financial difficulties.
- (5) It furnishes data for judging economic tendencies and for guidance in the formulation of fiscal, financial and commercial policies.

CANADIAN BALANCE OF INTERNATIONAL PAYMENTS 1 9 3 2

Balances from 1929-1932

1. In 1931, Canada's balance of international payments had shown an excess of credits over debits (excluding capital movements) amounting to approximately \$28 million, which compared with an excess of debits amounting to \$159 million in 1930 and \$65 million in 1929. The 1932 balance of payments statement shows an excess of credits (exclusive of capital movements) amounting to \$72 million. Commodity trade was favourable to the extent of nearly \$80 million. There was an unfavourable balance of "invisible" items (all items exclusive of commodities, gold and capital, and including the omission and error estimate) of \$123 million. Net gold exports in terms of Canadian currency were \$67 million. Gold and commodity favourable balances less the unfavourable balance in invisibles, leaves a net favourable balance of \$23 million.

Error and Omission Estimate

2. If there were no omissions nor erroneous estimates in the balance of payments statement, the difference between all debits and credits, exclusive of capital movements, viz., \$72 million, would be the correct figure for the net outflow of capital during the year. Since much of the data included in this calculation must be the result of estimation, and since it is inevitable that in such an extensive inquiry some items will elude detection, then the difference between debits and credits will contain errors and omissions as well as capital movements.

Direct Estimate of Capital Movement

3. For this reason, the indirect evidence of capital movement furnished by the balance of payments statement should be supplemented by an investigation designed to arrive at a direct estimate. Available data on capital

movements in 1932 may be summarized as follows:

(000's omitted)

	Debit	Credit
	\$	\$
Sale and purchase of securities, including repurchases, redemptions, sinking funds, etc.	100,000	150,000
Maturities paid during the year	75,000	a needest
Direct investments by other countries in Canada	12	2,000
Net outflow of capital	Treme Class	23,000
The Real Property like the second state of	175,000	175,000

Interpretation of the Capital Figures

4. It will be seen from this estimate that, on balance, there was an export of capital from Canada amounting to \$23 million. Since this is \$49 million less than the difference between all debits and credits in the balance of payments statement, the latter amount must be taken as the error and omission estimate. While it is true that the export of capital amounting to \$175 million exceeded imports amounting to \$152 million by \$23 million, a large proportion of the capital export was for the purpose of meeting maturities and redemptions. Maturities alone amounted to \$75 million. If the latter amount is deducted from our capital exports without considering other deductions for redemptions, sinking funds, etc., the table indicates that Canada was a capital importing country to the extent of \$52 million.

How Balance was Achieved

5. Consideration of these data setting forth the details of the Canadian balance of payments will reveal how balance in international accounts was achieved.

Commodity Trade

- 6. Commodity trade declined still further in 1932. In 1931, exports were \$608 million against \$497 million in 1932. Imports were \$612 million in 1931 and \$417 million in 1932. Last year, however, was characterized by a greater fall in imports leading to a favourable balance of \$80 million, while in 1931 exports and imports were nearly in balance. This was, of course, an important factor in easing the situation as regards payments abroad.

 Gold Movements
- 7. Gold again was a very important item on the credit side of the Canadian balance sheet. In Canadian currency, there was a net export of \$67 million. This large export left reserves a little reduced as compared with the previous year.

CANADIAN GOLD STOCK

December 31st, 1925-1932

			aı Subsidia	ary Coin	Gold held by Banks in Central Gold Reserves	Gold held by Minister of Finance against Dominion Notes and Savings Bank	Total Canadian Stocks
The state of			In Canada	Else- where		Deposits	
			\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
December	1925		49,915	18,772	18,910	137,858	226,455
31	1926		44,528	27,962	26,910	131,195	230,595
11	1927		48,061	28,458	21,245	130,733	228,497
11	1928		46,908	30,115	20,631	93,317	190,971
11	1929		46,852	26,442	14,631	62,995	150,920
81	1930		47,403	36,636	13,631	96,212	193,882
11			45,961	19,856	10,682	66,960	143,459
tt .		••••	37,976	15,287	11,082	73,044	137,389

Tourist Expenditures

8. Expenditures of tourists, as was to be expected, were lower in 1932. Receipts were \$212 against \$251 million in 1931 and payments \$57 million against \$76 million. Nevertheless, a favourable balance of \$150 million was achieved. This constituted the largest credit balance in our international accounts.

Interest Payments and Receipts

- 9. By a wide margin, net interest payments constituted the most serious adverse item. Interest payments abroad amounted to \$248 million against which there were receipts of \$56 million, a difference of \$192 million.

 Other Invisible Items
- 10. Among other invisible items the chief net debits were:

 Freight \$20 million, and exchange \$14 million. The principal net credit was insurance which amounted to \$7 million.

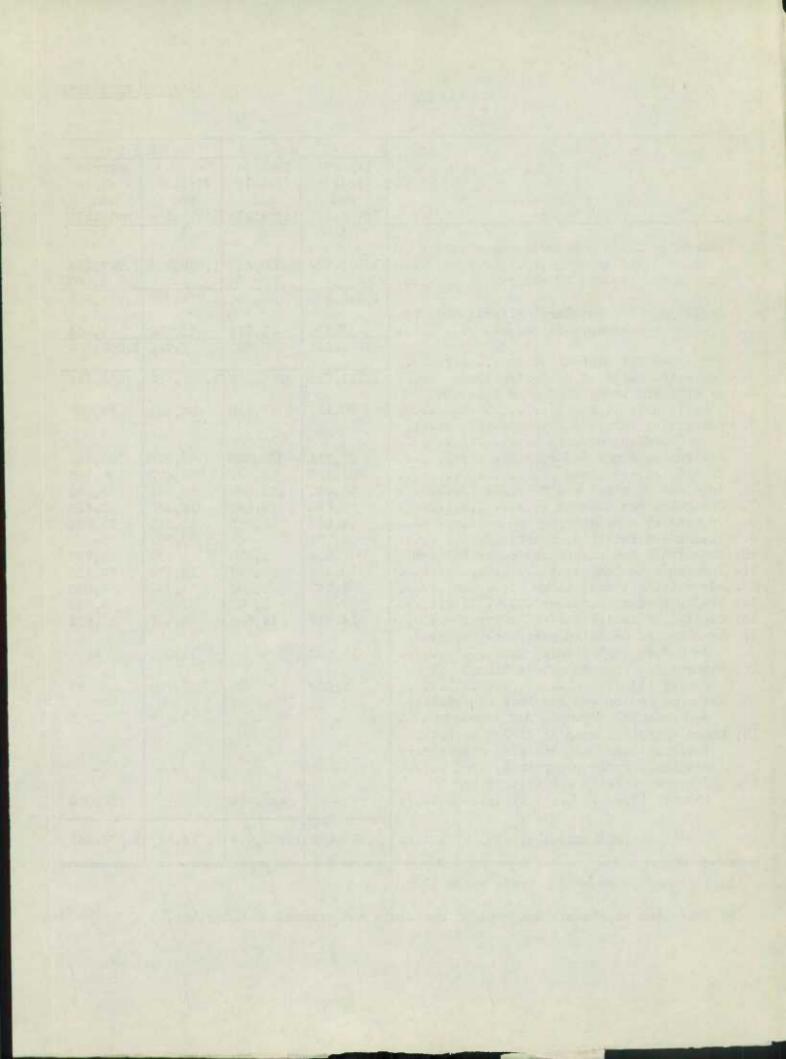
Summary

Il. Freight, interest and exchange together accounted for \$226 million out of \$287 million net debits (including error and omission estimate) in Canadian international payments in 1932. Other invisible items made up the remaining \$61 million. Commodities, gold and tourist traffic yielded net credits totalling \$297 million out of \$310 million. Other invisible items made up the balance of \$13 million. Canada's exports (visible and invisible) exceeded her imports (visible and invisible) largely because of the necessity of meeting maturities abroad.

CANADIAN ESTIMATED BALANCE OF INTERNATIONAL PAYMENTS

1932

		Exports Visible and Invisible	Imports Visible and Invisible
		8	\$
1.	Commodity Trade - Recorded merchandise exports and imports Deductions for settlers' effects and other non-	502,801	452,614
	commercial imports	6,526	14,048
		496,275	438,566
	Deduction for overvaluations		22,000
	Corrected total of commodity trade	496,275	416,566
2.	Exports and imports of gold coin and bullion .	60,825	2,175
3.	Correction for gold movements to convert to	00,020	~,110
	Canadian currency	7,919	
4.	Freight payments and receipts, n.o.p	38,864	58,864
5.	Tourist expenditures	212,448	57,403
6.	Interest payments and receipts	56,000	248,000
7.	Immigrant remittances	6,080	7,127
8.	Government expenditures and receipts	8,850	10,379
9.	Charitable and missionary contributions	500	1,000
10.	Insurance transactions	24,000	17,000
11.	Advertising transactions	2,000	3,500
12.	Motion picture earnings	III -	3,250
13.	Capital of immigrants and emigrants	4,416	3,775
14.	Earnings of Canadian residents employed in	550	
	U.S.A. (net)	750	-
15.	Exchange London and New York on interest and maturity payments and receipts	10,000	23,750
16.	Known omissions such as direct magazine sub-		
	scriptions, artists and entertainers receipts, radio programmes, etc		4,000
17.	Difference between debits and credits as above		4,000
7-1 -	- capital movements		72,138
		928,927	928,927
70	Sale and purchase of securities, including re-		
TO.	purchases, sinking funds, etc.	150,000	100,000
19.	Maturities		75,000
	Direct investments	2,000	
21.	Net outflow of capital	23,000	representation of the same
00	m + 7 1-1-1-1 1-1-1-1	175,000	175,000
	Total debits and credits	1,080,927	1,031,789
~00	TO CTIOID GIFT OUTDITOID 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	1,080,927	1,080,927



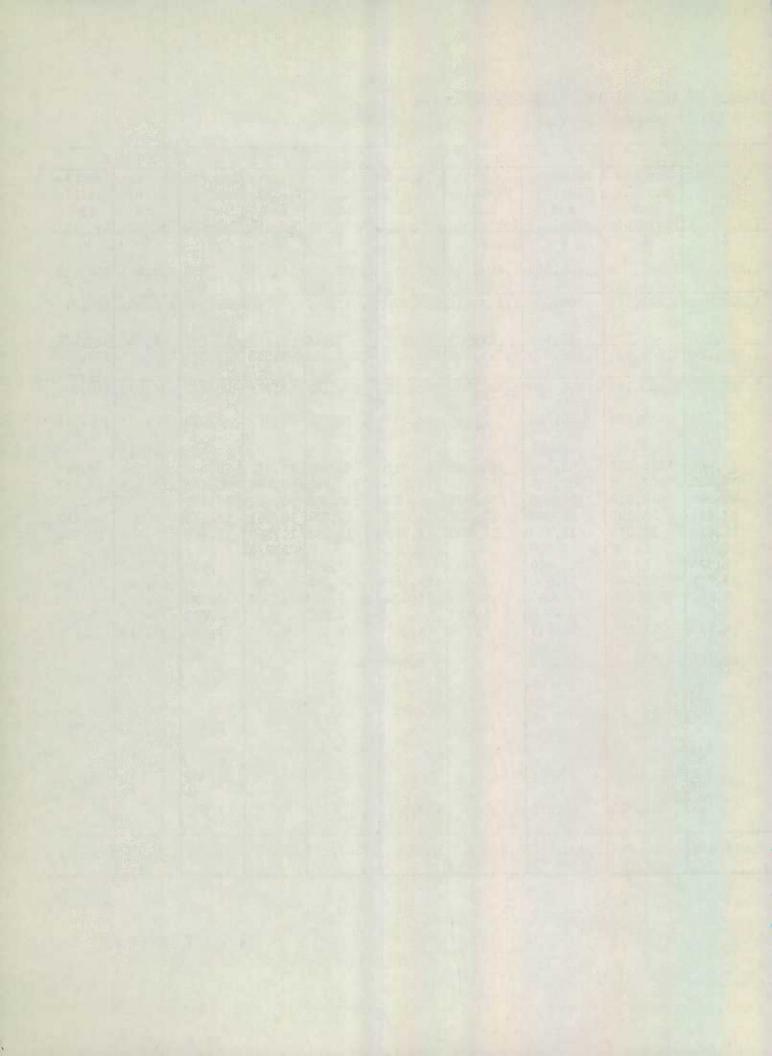
		·			
		1 9	26	1 9	27
		Exports	Imports	Exports	Imports
		Visible	Visible	Visible	Visible
		and	and	and	and
		Invisible	Invisible	Invisible	Invisible
		\$	\$	\$	\$
1.	Commodity Trade - Recorded merchandise				
	exports and imports	1,283,939	1,008,342	1,238,782	1,087,118
	Unrecorded imports of ships	_			
		1,283,939	1,008,366	1,238,782	1,088,978
	Deductions for settlers' effects and				
	other non-commercial imports	-12,326	-21,774	-11,020	-22,504
		1,271,613	986,592	1,227,762	1,066,474
	Deduction for overvaluation				
	Corrected total of commodity trade	1,271,613	986,592	1,227,762	1,066,474
2.	Exports and imports of gold coin and				
	bullion	80,131	47,126	64,231	31,257
3.	Correction for gold movement to convert				
	to Canadian currency				
4.	Freight payments and receipts n.o.p	88,714	106,288	89,826	109,140
5.	Tourist expenditures	201,167	98,747	238,477	108,750
6.	Interest payments and receipts	55,452	223,639	64,885	235,052
7.	Immigrant remittances	15,550	20,509	15,433	22,423
8.	Government expenditures and receipts	11,948	10,863	11,850	11,751
9.	Government receipts, reparations	1,757	7 000	6,791	7 7700
	Charitable and missionary contributions .	814	1,878	873	1,766
	Insurance transactions	10,835	23,827	19,194	
	Advertising transactions	3,143	4,500	4,482	4,800
	Motion picture earnings	14 045	3,500		3,500 12,611
	Capital of immigrants and emigrants	14,945	14,689	14,545	La Oil
19.	Earnings of Canadian residents employed in U.S.A. (net figure)	10,000		11,000	
16	Exports and imports of electrical	10,000		11,000	rosh.
100	energy (1)	4,600	89	4,798	87
17	Exchange London and New York on interest	4,000	03	4,100	3,
-l. f +	and maturity payments and receipts			12.50	
18	Known omissions such as direct magazine	_			
100	subscriptions, artists and entertainers			The same	
	receipts, radio programmes, etc				
19	Difference between all exports and		The state of	Taran Taran	
100	imports (2)		228,422		137,050
					,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,
	mom a f	1 550 000	1 550 000	7 774 747	7 676 4 7 46
	TOTAL	1,770,669	1,770,669	1,774,147	1,774,147
				1	1.

⁽¹⁾ Included in Commodity Trade since 1928.

⁽²⁾ This item represents not capital movements and errors and omissions.

BALANCE OF INTERNATIONAL PAYMENTS, 1926-1932

1 9	28	19	2 9	1 9	3 0	19	3 1	19	3 2
Exports	Imports	Exports	Imports	Exports	Imports	Exports	Imports	Exports	Imports
Visible	Visible	Visible	Visible	Visible	Visible	Visible	Visible	Visible	Visible
and	and	and	and	and	and	and	and	and	and
Invisible	Invisible	Invisible	Invisible	Invisible	Invisible	Invisible	Invisible	Invisible	Invisible
\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
					7	0.7 00 0.412	000 000	E00 000	450 074
1,374,246	1,222,318	1,208,338	1,298,993	905,370			628,098	502,801	452,614
-00	19,230	-	19,420		7,470		500		
1,374,246	1,241,548	1,208,338	1,318,413	905,370	1,015,949	617,243	628,598	502,801	452,614
The same		6							t
-10,926						-9,328		-6,526	
1,363,320	1,220,153	1,196,659	1,293,799	894,413	992,135	607,915		496,275	
7	7 00 - 7 70		1 015 000	001 175		0.000 0.3 M	5,000	the state of the s	22,000
1,363,320	1,220,153	1,196,659	1,293,799	894,413	992,135	607,915	606,847	496,275	416,566
107 614	70 650	EO 500	7 7AC	95 7/7	39,062	70,062	2,038	60,825	2,175
107,614	39,659	50,598	3,746	25,343	39,002	10,002	2,000	00,020	ما با وم
						100		7,919	
88,266	115,433	85,541	130,855	68,815	100 909	49,670	76,528	38,864	58,864
275,230	107,522		121,645		,	250,776	76,452		57,403
	,	309,379					/	56,000	
80,966	246,916	87,886	258,907	88,220		70,722	252,076		248,000
14,421	23,195	14,036	23,385	,	23,000		13,110		7,127
11,819	11,030	11,750	11,300		10,379		10,960	8,850	10,379
4,688	-	4,325	-	4,000	-	1,295	1 000	-	7 000
1,373	1,800	900	1,800		1,800		1,800		1,000
35,761	28,790	31,990	24,418		22,138		20,000		17,000
3,858	5,000	4,000	5,280		6,000		5,000	2,000	3,500
-	3,750	-	3,750		3,750		3,750	-	3,250
14,783	11,178	14,117	11,496	11,083	9,424	5,173	3,820	4,416	3,775
3.5 505		30 000	- 5.1	7 404		1 000		pro-	
13,725	-	13,725	-	3,696	-	1,857	-	750	_
-	-		1 1 1 2		_		-		
							5.000	10,000	23.750
							0,500	10,000	200
		_ 1			11.12	_	5,000	_	4,000
				WITE,					H T
460	201,398	65,475	-	159,533	-		27,790	-	72,138
2,015,824	2,015,824	1,890,381	1,890,381	1,594,474	1,594,474	1,110,171	1,110,171	928,927	928, 327
						12:12:3			



ESTIMATED BALANCE OF PAYMENTS BETWEEN CANADA AND GREAT BRITAIN

Limitations of This Estimate

1. An attempt has been made to compile a separate statement of international payments between Canada and Great Britain and Canada and the United States. Its limitations are admitted. If a general statement of international payments can only be considered an approximation, one confined to transactions between two countries must be subject to a wider margin of error. For a number of items, data are available only for total debits or credits and not by countries. In such cases, arbitrary guesses have sometimes to be made regarding the geographical division.

Means of Balancing Payments, Great Britain-Canada

2. In the case of Great Britain, however, the principal items are the commodity trade and interest receipts and payments, the figures for which are not subject to arbitrary estimation. In 1932, Canada had a favourable commodity trade balance with Britain amounting to approximately \$103 million, but an unfavourable balance in interest payments of approximately \$79 million. As all other items, exclusive of capital movements, nearly offset each other, a difference of \$24 million favourable to Canada remained. This balance, however, was again offset by capital items, including debits of \$50 million and credits of \$24 million. Only a small balance of slightly over \$1 million remained unaccounted for.

Complexity of Settlement Process

Our debits and credits with London would not be settled on the basis of our commercial transactions in goods and services with that country alone. London is the clearing centre for most Empire countries. Our debits and credits with India, Australia and Fiji, New Zealand, South Africa, etc., would probably mostly be settled through London. It is the clearing centre for many foreign transactions as well. So that in the end we might find that, although on the basis of our transactions confined to Canada and Great Britain alone the accounts were in balance, when all transactions settled through London were taken into consideration, we might be debtor to London or vice versa. The situation is still further complicated by the fact that London transactions mostly come through New York.

ESTIMATED BALANCE OF PAYMENTS CANADA AND GREAT BRITAIN

-							
		19	3 1	1932			
	Marin a parent in	Exports Visible and	Imports Visible and	Exports Visible and	Imports Visible and		
		Invisible	Invisible	Invisible	Invisible		
		\$	\$	\$	\$		
1.	Commodity Trade - Recorded						
	merchandise exports and	370 403	700 450	3770 004	07 500		
	imports	172,461	109,470	179,094	93,508		
	Unrecorded import of ships	270 402	500	700.004	07 500		
	Deductions for settlers'	172,461	109,970	179,094	93,508		
	effects and other non-						
	commercial imports	2,822	1,339	2,115	1,297		
	Total of commodity trade .	169,639	108,631	176,979	92,211		
		100,000		2,0,0,0			
	Deduction for overvaluation	7.00 070	4,500	170 070	19,000		
0	Franks and imports of sold	169,639	104,131	176,979	73,211		
2.	Exports and imports of gold coin, bullion and subsid-						
	iary coin	1	18		15		
3.	Freight payments and re-	1	10.		10		
	ceipts, n.o.p.	10,305	9,928	6,920	8,268		
1.	Tourist expenditures	9,900	12,708	8,900	12,500		
5.	Interest payments and re-						
	ceipts	3,706	92,236	3,000	82,000		
	Immigrant remittances	911	3,060	771	2,143		
7 .	Government expenditures	F 750	4 445	7 750	4 407		
3.	and receipts	5,350	4,445	3,150	4,493		
3 *	contributions	100	ALL HEAL	100			
3.	Insurance transactions	10,000	4,100	9,000	3,500		
LO.		250	1,500	200	1,000		
1.	Motion picture earnings		150		250		
12.							
	emigrants	384	2,233	166	2,648		
L3.	Allowance for exchange on						
	interest and maturity				- FI S UM S		
	payments and receipts	4,500	1000	8,000			
L4.	Known omissions, such as						
	direct magazine subscrip-		400		950		
1 =	tions, entertainers, etc.		400	F = 1-1	250		
.0.	Sale and purchase of securities including repur-						
	chases, sinking funds, etc.			24,000	30,000		
1.6.	Direct investments	E PARTICIPAL		300	-		
	Maturities	_	Colon	-400	20,000		
18.	Difference between all						
	debits and credits, in-	94 077			7 900		
	cluding capital	24,633	970 400	OAT 400	1,208		
		239,409	239,409	241,486	241,486		

ESTIMATED BALANCE OF PAYMENTS BETWEEN CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES

- l. During the twelve years prior to 1932, Canada's commodity trade balance with the United States was adverse, on the average, to the extent of \$225 million per year. The important invisible items in the international account are tourist traffic, interest and freight. Heavy net interest and freight payments must be made to the United States, while Canada has a large balance in her favour from tourist traffic. As a matter of fact, during the last few years, tourist receipts have been sufficient to more than offset our payments for interest and freight. Other invisible items practically balanced. In some years, heavy shipments of gold, of which Canada is now producing about \$60 million per year, have further reduced the adverse balance.
- 2. For many years until 1931, no difficulty was experienced in meeting our adverse balance. Expansion had been so great that capital movements were easily adequate to meet it. Indeed, in the period 1924 to 1928, Canadian prosperity was such that we became during those years, a capital exporting country. In 1929 and 1930 we resumed the role of capital importers.
- 3. In 1931 and 1932 the meeting of our obligations to the United States was much more difficult because the flotation of capital issues in New York ceased in the latter part of 1931. Details of the international account for 1931 and 1932 are set out in the accompanying table, which shows how balance was achieved. In the latter year, tourist net receipts practically offset net interest, freight and exchange payments. Gold shipments in Canadian funds amounted to \$67 million. Other invisible items were adverse to the extent of approximately \$10 million. The commodity adverse balance which had declined to \$107 million in 1931, less than one-half the average for twelve years, was still further reduced to \$85 million. Capital items included debits of \$55 million for maturities, \$65 million for other capital debits and \$123 million credit for sales.

Summary

4. Canadian debits to the United States in 1932 to be brought into balance required (a) greatly reduced imports, thus lowering the unfavourable balance of trade; (b) a credit of over \$160 million in tourist traffic; (c) net gold shipments aggregating \$65 million; (d) United States investments in Canada in securities and direct items of nearly \$125 million.

ESTIMATED BALANCE OF PAYMENTS CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES

	Lance State of the land of the land	19	3 1	19	3 2
		Exports	Imports	Exports	Imports
	Description of the last of the	Visible	Visible	Visible	Visible
		and	and	and	and
		Invisible	Invisible	Invisible	Invisible
		1	\$	Ž,	\$
1.	Commodity Trade - Recorded				
	merchandise exports and				
	imports	266,682	393,776	169,894	263,549
		,	000,		,
	Deductions for settlers'				
	effects and other non-	5,212	1/ 017	3,371	12,338
	commercial imports		14,817		
	Real total of commodity trade	261,470	378,959	166,523	251,211
2.	Exports and imports of gold			1	72.5
	coin, bullion and subsid-				
	iary coin	69,557	1,945	59,240	2,135
3.	Correction for gold movement				
	to convert to Canadian cur-				1 2 2 0
	rency	- 10	-	7,709	
4.	Freight payments and receipts				
	n.o.p	32,004	55,982	23,711	44,008
5.	Tourist expenditures	238,758	56,902	201,905	38,148
6.	Interest payments and receipts	40,505	153,018	35,000	160,000
7.	Immigrant remittances	8,233	7,849	4,693	3,478
8.	Government expenditures and	4 000	2 005	4 700	7 053
_	receipts	4,900	3,625	4,300	3,871
9.	Charitable and missionary	000		400	
30	contributions	800	3 5 850	400	37 000
	Insurance transactions	12,000	15,750	10,500	13,000
	Advertising transactions	2,700	3,500	1,750	2,500
	Motion picture earnings		3,600	-	3,000
TO.	Capital of immigrants and	A C77	3 407	4 3 63	7 072
7.4	emigrants	4,673	1,481	4,161	1,013
14.	Earnings of Canadian residents	A THE PERSON NAMED IN			
	employed in U.S.A. (net	1 057		750	
7.5	figures)	1,857	~	750	1 1 1 1 1 1
TO.	U.S.A. funds		5,000	2,000	23,750
16	Allowance for known omissions	-	5,000	٨,٥٥٥	60,100
TO.	such as direct magazine sub-			110000	
	scriptions, entertainers,				1
	radio, etc.		4,500		3,700
17	Sale & purchase of securities.	1	4,	123,000	65,000
	Maturities				55,000
	Direct investments			1,600	-
	Difference between all debits			1,000	11 11 120
20.	and credits, including	94.		1 1 2 2 2	
	capital	14,654	-	22,572	000
		The state of the s			
		692,111	692,111	669,814	669,814

ESTIMATED BALANCE OF PAYMENTS CANADA AND OTHER COUNTRIES

		1 9	3 2
		Exports Visible and	Imports Visible and
		Invisible	Invisible
		\$	\$
1.	Commodity Trade - Recorded merchandise exports and imports	153,813	95,557
	Deductions for settlers' effects and other	-	
	non-commercial imports	1,040	413
		152,773	95,144
	Deduct for overvaluation		3,000
	Corrected total of commodity trade	152,773	92,144
2.	Exports and imports of gold coin, bullion and subsidiary coin	1,585	25
3.	Correction for gold movement to convert to Canadian currency	210	_
4.	Freight payments and receipts, n.o.p	8,233	6,588
5.	Tourist expenditures	1,643	6,755
6.	Interest payments and receipts	18,000	6,000
7.	Immigrant remittances	616	1,506
8.	Government expenditures and receipts	1,400	2,015
9.	Charitable and missionary contributions	_	1,000
10.	Insurance transactions	4,500	500
11.	Advertising transactions	50	_
	Capital of immigrants and emigrants	89	113
13.	Allowance for known omissions such as direct magazine subscriptions, entertainers,		
	radio, etc		50
14.	Sale and purchase of securities	3,000	5,000
15.	Direct investments	100	-
16.	Difference between all debits and credits, including capital	1	70,503
		192,199	192,199

