

already large and expanding population. As a result, her traditionally strong commercial relations with Latin America are being reconstructed. Of her total trade in 1948, Japan imported 12.5 percent from Latin America and exported 1.3 percent to the area. By 1949, Latin America took about 7 percent of Japan's exports and supplied 14 percent of her imports. 1949 trade was limited to Cuba, Mexico, Brazil, and Paraguay, but by 1952 Japan had expanded her commercial relations to include Panama, Colombia, Ecuador, Nicaragua, Argentina, Chile, Peru, and Venezuela as well.¹

In July of 1951, a barter agreement was concluded for the exchange of Japanese-built ships for 20 million sacks of Brazilian rice. A 1952 agreement exchanged more ships for cotton, and that same year a Japanese industrial fair was held at Rio.

Brazil is Japan's best customer in Latin America.² During 1954, Brazil imported 26,580 million yen (equivalent to approximately \$73.8 million) worth of Japanese goods, including several troop transports and merchant vessels. The 1955-56 trade decline was only a temporary phenomenon. In August of 1958, the Brazilian Government authorized a Japanese company to exploit and process tuna and other fish in the South Atlantic. The growth of Japanese-Brazilian commerce is explained by their complementary economies and by the large-scale Japanese migration to Brazil (over 400,000 since the turn of the century).

More recently, Argentina has developed trade relations with Japan. In 1954, a \$180 million commercial treaty was signed, wherein Japan agreed to send iron and steel products, industrial machinery, fabrics, and chemicals in return for hides, wool, vegetable oil, and milk products.

Since 1951, Chile has been selling nitrates to Japan, and in 1952 a Japanese trade mission visited Santiago to renew extensive prewar agreements. In 1958, Japan purchased a copper mine near Antofagasta, their first outright purchase of an overseas mine. It is expected to export to Japan 3,600 tons of ore a month.

Cuba, in 1954, concluded a sugar agreement with Japan, and sent delegates to a trade conference in Tokyo. Japan is the third largest importer of Cuban sugar, and in 1959 she agreed to increase imports if Cuba would import more Japanese goods. Cuba's new revolutionary government has expressed interest in merchant ships, agricultural tools and machinery.

A trade mission from Japan visited El Salvador early in 1956. A \$2,500,000 textile mill is being currently built with joint Salvadorean-Japanese capital. Japan is contributing the machinery, building material, and technical knowledge.

Mexico renewed diplomatic relations with Japan in 1952. That same year Japan bought the entire crop of cotton of the state of Sinaloa, and helped to finance a new salt plant. During 1953, she tried to negotiate an oil barter agreement. By 1953, she had become Mexico's second best customer. During 1955, she had further increased her capital investments and offered to help develop Mexico's fishing industry by installing processing factories and refrigerating

¹ See Jerome B. Cohen, "Economic Problems of Free Japan," 1952.

² See "The Oriental Economist," 1955-57, for Japan's recent trade relations with individual Latin American countries.