

The growing world population requires as much additional grain each year as Canada produces. Twenty years ago Canada sold one-sixth of its grain to developing countries; today it sells one-half, and the Canadian Wheat Board significantly expanded its market when it sold 51.4 million bushels of wheat to China this spring. Saskatchewan's ability to meet the Board's export target of 30 million tons (1,100 million bushels) annually by 1985 is limited only by the size of its storage, transportation and handling facilities, and these limitations are being overcome.

The provincial government bought 1,000 grain hopper cars in 1980 and plans to add 2,000 more. The grain handling capacity of Saskatchewan's facilities at Vancouver, B.C., has been enlarged, and new terminals are being built at Prince Rupert, B.C.

Oil

The most readily marketable oils are light and medium. They can be refined into gasoline and heating fuel and transported through pipelines.

Alberta is the first light and medium oil producer of Canada by a wide margin. Saskatchewan is second.

Saskatchewan also produces (and has vast reserves of) a heavy oil used primarily to make asphalt.

One-third of the province's current production is light, one-fourth medium and the rest heavy. About fifty-five per cent of the total production of light and medium is sold in Ontario and Quebec. The heavy oil is sold in the upper midwestern United States.

Saskatchewan has about twenty-five billion barrels of heavy oil underground, but it is thick and viscous, hard to recover, hard to transport and difficult to refine.

Oil income (\$720 million in 1979) will be greatly increased if the province succeeds in finding ways to upgrade it and increase the amount recoverable.

The federal and provincial governments are



A uranium mine in Eldorado, north of Lake Athabasca.

sponsoring pilot research projects designed to increase recovery. The provincial government is studying the practicality of upgrading the heavy oil to make it fluid enough for pipeline shipment and of refining it to a point where it could be used for conventional petroleum products. If the study is favourable, at least one upgrading plant will be constructed.

Natural Gas

Saskatchewan has an estimated 1,304,000 million cubic feet of natural gas in reserve that is economically recoverable at today's prices. It has an additional 1,438,000 million cubic feet of less economical reserves.

All the natural gas produced is used in the province, most of it distributed through the publicly owned Saskatchewan Power Corporation. The domestic gas provides thirty-six per cent of the province's needs. The rest is brought in from Alberta.

Uranium

Saskatchewan has some of the world's highest grade uranium deposits.

Two privately owned mines produced \$218 million worth of uranium oxide in 1979. Since then the Saskatchewan Mining and Development Corporation, a provincial crown corporation, has become much involved in the development of new mines, and production is increasing dramatically.

SMDC owns twenty per cent of the Cluff Lake mine being developed by Amok Ltd. and fifty per cent of the mine at Key Lake. Both have deposits of an exceptionally high grade, and when they are in full operation by the mid-1980s, their combined production will be more than double that of the privately owned mines. Since both use open-pit mining techniques they will be economical to run.

Additional major uranium deposits have been identified at Midwest Lake, Keefe-Henday Lakes and Maclean Lake. Sales of uranium are expected to approach \$1,000 million by 1990.



Potash Mining & Refining Ltd.'s Cory Division Mine near Saskatoon.