

One of the constants in the literature of the Prairies - particularly the portrayal of our Prairie towns - was the Chinese café that was the stereotype of the Asian presence on the Prairies.

Today that Asian presence includes the \$500 million Diashowa Paper investment in the Peace River or the Hitachi funding of a turbine plant in Saskatoon, or the \$40 million contract won last fall by the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology to develop and operate a training centre for the Indonesian Oil Industry, or the wheat and the canola and the coal we sell across the Pacific.

Fifty percent of our immigrants come from Asia, and by the year 2000, over 1,000,000 more Asians will have made Canada their home.

Tourism from Japan alone has grown by 30% over each of the past three years.

Next month we will inaugurate direct air service via Canadian International from Edmonton to Tokyo with same plane service from Calgary. Earlier this month direct service began from Toronto to Tokyo. Over the past three years we have expanded our air links to all the other major centres in the region making access to Asia fast and efficient for Canadians from coast to coast.

Today, over half of Canada's non-U.S.A. exports go to the Asia Pacific region. That was worth more than \$17 billion in 1988. These four Western provinces account for about three quarters of all Canadian exports to Korea and Japan. In the case of China, about 90% of Canada's exports come from the Western provinces.

Last year Canada's total exports to Asia and the Pacific grew by more than 30%. Within a decade two way trade between our country and that region will surpass \$50 billion.

Last year, your Forum published its report "Going Global". One of my officials, Ian Wood, now our Consul General in Seattle, was the project director. That study recognized that our business schools are going to have to take a global approach if we are to prosper economically in the years ahead. We are going to have to do a better job in meeting the private and public sector demand for managers with international skills.

"Going Global" is also the theme of the government's strategy for Asia Pacific and Europe in this period when we build upon the Free Trade Agreement.