

Lowlands and the Niagara Peninsula have produced abundant fruit and vegetable harvests. Several counties grow tobacco and soybeans.

A steady expansion of southern Ontario's cornlands has occurred in recent years with the introduction of robust hybrid varieties. Because of mechanization and a trend toward specialization, farms in Ontario have become very productive. In 1980, net farm income was an estimated \$632 million. Approximately two-thirds of this is from livestock and livestock products such as milk and eggs; this accounts for more than one-third of Canada's total output.

There are many dairy cattle herds in Ontario. Since 1965, the number of beef cattle has doubled and the typical Ontario dairy herd has at least 40 cows. Ontario, Canada's leading producer of swine, is a major poultry producer.

A wide variety of vegetables is grown in southwestern Ontario. The showpiece of Ontario agriculture, the fruit-growing area of the Niagara Peninsula, is well known for its apples, grapes and peaches. Berries include blackberries, blueberries, grapes, strawberries and raspberries. The Niagara Peninsula produces both table grapes and the more prolific wine grapes which are picked by mechanical harvesters.

In 1811, John McIntosh, a Scottish immigrant, found 20 wild apple trees

on his land in eastern Ontario. From these he developed the McIntosh apple which now accounts for nearly 50 per cent of Canada's apple crop.

### *Forestry*

From the time of the great log drives in the nineteenth century, Ontario, with British Columbia and Quebec, has been an important producer of forest products. The province exports more than 20 per cent of Canadian paper and 20 per cent of all fabricated wood products. Nine-tenths of Ontario's forest land (68 million hectares) is owned and managed by the provincial government, but most of the timber stands are cut and processed by private corporations under licence.

Today, every corporation harvesting Crown timber must respect the area's "sustained yield" – that is, no more timber may be cut each year than the forest can produce. Forest companies must pay "stumpage" on their harvest as well as an annual fee for forest protection and management.

By value, Ontario's most important wood product is newsprint; the province accounts for 20 per cent of Canada's output. Most is exported to the United States. There are more than 1 200 wood-mills in Ontario, and the processing of forest products employs approximately 80 000 people.