

Foreign ownership of businesses

Foreign interests controlled 35.1 per cent of companies in Ontario in 1975, the highest percentage among the provinces, according to a provincial analysis of domestic and foreign-controlled firms prepared by Statistics Canada.

Since Ontario is also the largest provincial employer, it had 52.5 per cent of Canadian employment by foreign-controlled companies.

The figures are based on a sample of 31,611 companies throughout the country with employment of 4,352,588. A total of 2,330 of the companies, or 7.37 per cent, were foreign-controlled with a work force of 1,237,526, or 28.4 per cent.

Ontario and Quebec accounted for 70 per cent of the country's employment.

Employment by foreign firms in Ontario was 84 per cent from U.S. companies. In Quebec, the figures were 72.2 per cent from U.S.-controlled companies and 15.1 per cent from British companies.

Other provinces with foreign employment of more than 20 per cent, with percentages in brackets, were: Alberta (27.9), the Yukon and Northwest Territories (26.8), British Columbia (24.7), Quebec (24.5), Nova Scotia (21.5) and Newfoundland (21.4).

Prince Edward Island had the lowest level of foreign employment at 9.6 per cent, followed by New Brunswick at 12.9 per cent, Saskatchewan at 18.3 per cent and Manitoba at 18.4 per cent.

Bug produces oil

Scientists at the University of Toronto have discovered bacteria that could become reliable sources of car fuel.

The "bugs" called *Arthrobacter* AK19 have been tested at the University of Toronto for the past three years. Dr. Morris Wayman, head of the research team, said he and his colleagues are convinced that AK19 could be cultivated and its oil extracted for commercial use.

Under a microscope AK19, which is full of oil droplets, looks like an over-ripe string bean bulging with seeds. The single-cell creature was found thriving at the mouths of gas wells in southern Ontario where it ate up butane gas and turned it into oil.

The hurdle that must be overcome before AK19 can go into production is find-

ing the right food for "the bug".

While AK19 may like butane gas, Dr. Wayman's experiments showed that AK19 also thrives on sugars like glucose, readily produced by yeasts and other bacteria which eat carbon dioxide and other carbon compounds found in abundance in the oceans.

He said there are a number of microscopic "candidates" which can feed and live in harmony with AK19.

With funds from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Council, which has invested more than \$85,000 in the research since 1977, Dr. Wayman plans to grow AK19 and one of its partners in a small-scale tank. He plans to feed the microbial system with nothing more than sea water.

Dr. Wayman and his research team of three has got a "whole collection" of micro-organisms that can produce oil but Dr. Wayman says AK19 looks the most promising.

Research and rescue competition



Canadian and American military search and rescue specialists recently competed in SAREX 80, this year's version of the annual Canadian-American search and rescue competition. SAREX 80 was held at March AFB, California with specialists competing in three events, each designed to test a different aspect of the rescue specialist's life-saving skills. The first phase was a para-jumping competition, the second a simulated search and rescue exercise, and the third a simulated medical exercise. Here a Canadian Forces Para-Rescue technician floats to earth in the para-jumping phase of the competition.

Wine company seeks foreign markets

A successful Canadian wine company began a major sales campaign in Britain last autumn and plans to break into other foreign markets.

Joseph Peller chairman, chief executive officer and majority shareholder of Andres Wines Ltd., based in Winona, Ontario, has seen his company's share of domestic wine sales grow to 30 per cent from less than one per cent. It has six wineries, more than 1,200 shareholders and annual sales of \$34 million.

The company's success is attributed to Baby Duck, a sweet, pink bubbly wine containing only 7 per cent alcohol.

In fiscal 1970, the year before Andres introduced Baby Duck, company sales totalled \$2.5 million, and earnings were \$296,000 or 17 cents a share — a far cry from the \$33.7 million sales and \$3.1 million earnings (\$1.58 a share) in the year ended March 31, 1978.

Of the \$33.7 million sales, Baby Duck accounted for an estimated 25 per cent or about \$8.4 million.

Test marketing

Last fall, the company launched Baby Duck nationally in Britain after several months of test marketing.

Company executives and analysts are confident that the exporting efforts to Britain will pay off by 1981.

Baby Duck is manufactured in Britain by a Leeds winery to which Andres has provided the recipe, and ships Niagara grape juice concentrate; the winery earns a royalty for every case sold.

"Because we did not begin national distribution until last October, our promotional efforts were not in time to catch the peak sales leading up to the Christmas period," says Mr. Peller.

Company encouraged

But company executives were encouraged by the fact that the supermarkets that did order large quantities of Baby Duck found it sold "like hotcakes". (In Britain, Andres is going after the home consumer market, selling mainly from supermarkets where free tasting is permitted.)

Although Andres is budgeting for a loss in Britain in 1980, it expects to sell at least 300,000 gallons by 1981. And once it is established in Britain, Andres intends to pursue other foreign markets.