

In terms of tonnage, Vancouver is the largest port on the Pacific Coast of North America. In 1980 it had another record year, handling 9.5 percent more cargo than in 1979, almost all of it exports. The port of Vancouver is about to embark on one of the most extensive capital works programmes of its history. Plans include additional container gantry cranes, the enlargement of the container dock area and the doubling in size of the coal terminal. An estimated 100 million dollars will be spent in the next three years and further projects for 1984 and 1985 are already being considered.

Coal has become one of the province's major exports. At present, Japan buys 93 percent of Canada's exported coal, most of it from BC's open pit mines. The opening of three new mines, beginning this year, in the north-east may well double coal sales, create 3,000 jobs and draw considerable new investment. Related developments will include a 115 km rail spur line, upgrading of the existing main line to the port of Prince Rupert, and the construction of a new 70 million dollar coal terminal at Prince Rupert.

The other major resource industry, and still the backbone of the province's economy, is forest products. Forests cover 55 percent of the province, and most of them are exploitable if they can be reached. The forests are administered through a "substained yield policy" according to which the total annual harvest must not exceed annual growth. British Columbia's wood is exported in finished or semi-finished form: pulp, newsprint, kraft paper, plywood, millwork, chip, shakes and shingles, or lumber. Last year's wood exports were valued at 2.5 million dollars.

British Columbia also exports minerals and metals, hydro-electricity, trucks, aircraft parts, computer software and sophisticated engineering skills.

The province's Employer's Council estimates that BC's economy will grow by about 3.5 percent in real terms in 1981, which is better than the 3 percent growth last year and well above the forecast for Canada as a whole. British Columbia's success has been attributed to a recovered export picture led by lumber shipments, a surge in investment, increased consumer spending and growth in employment. During 1980 the province accounted for 21 percent of all new jobs created in Canada, even though it has only 10 percent of the total population.

EN BREF

TELIDON: DEMONSTRATIONS A BRUXELLES

Les démonstrations de TELIDON annoncées dans ce Bulletin auront lieu à Bruxelles les 7, 8, 11 et 12 mai 1981. Les personnes qui désirent y assister sont priées de communiquer avec M. Simon Doyon, Secrétaire commercial à l'Ambassade du Canada à Bruxelles, téléphone 513 79 40.

VISIT TO BRUSSELS OF THE ALBERTA TELEPHONES MINISTER

The Associate Minister of Telephones of the province of Alberta, Dr. Neil Webber, visited Brussels on March 4, 1981. On that