

flour and animal feeds, as well as oilseeds and oilseed products, pork, fruits and tobacco.

Canada's leading exports in 1978 were wheat (\$1,910 million), barley (\$380 million), rapeseed (\$370 million), furs, hides and skins (\$191 million), live cattle (\$165 million) and animal feeds (\$122 million). Grains accounted for 49 per cent of farm exports. Exports of dairy products remained unchanged from the figure recorded in 1977.

#### Where it all goes

In 1978, three markets — Japan, United States and the European Economic Community (EEC) — accounted for 53 per cent of Canada's export trade, compared with 57 per cent in 1976 and 55 per cent in 1977. Japan is still the country's most important single market, importing produce valued at \$833 million. The U.S. imported \$789 million of Canadian agricultural goods while the EEC provided a market for commodities valued at \$925 million.

"However, new markets showed promise last year. Other countries in the Pacific including South Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Singapore and the Philippines are growing markets. Each has a limited land base for its own agricultural production, coupled with large populations to feed. But these countries have developed manufacturing export

Federal Agriculture Minister John Wise and his provincial counterparts met in St. Andrews, New Brunswick, July 22-25 to discuss agricultural development plans for the 1980s.

Mr. Wise said he was pleased with the spirit of co-operation which prevailed during the meeting. All the ministers supported a proposed development strategy, which placed emphasis on marketing transportation, the development agreements between the federal and provincial governments and the need to explain the importance of agriculture to the general public. The ministers also agreed that more agricultural research was needed and that more must be done to aid farmers who are just starting out.

bases which are now providing the foreign exchange they need to buy our food," Mr. Lohoar says.

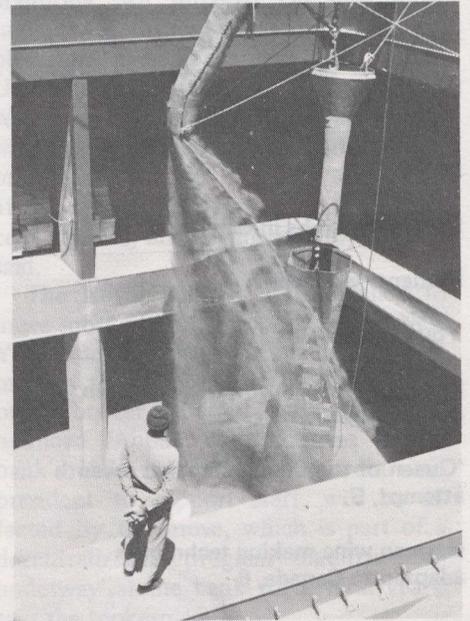
"Another area is the oil-producing nations. These countries are attempting to develop their agricultural base and are in need of breeding stock, feed grains, forage seeds, and farm machinery as well as our agricultural expertise."

Exports of potatoes and vegetables declined last year. Potato exports fell by 41 per cent in 1978 to levels recorded before the brief increase in 1977 that resulted from the drought in Europe.

#### Imports

"While the value of agricultural imports increased, the actual quantities imported rose only slightly and, in some cases, declined. One example of this was in the case of imports of corn. Last year Canada imported 419 thousand metric tonnes of corn, or 373 thousand metric tonnes less than [the volume required] in 1976. This lower level of imports has come about as a result of increased domestic corn production," Mr. Lohoar says.

The United States continued to be the major source of imported farm products, with trade from the U.S. increasing by



Loading wheat in hold of ocean-going freighter in Thunder Bay, Ontario.

12.3 per cent to \$2,300 million in 1978. Its share of imports was again about 58 per cent last year.

"Because of the reduced value of our dollar, there has been a slowing in the demand for imported produce. More domestic produce is finding markets at home, resulting in a greater degree of self-sufficiency, and greater production. The pork industry is one area which has experienced a turn-around last year. Where previously we had a deficit trade balance in pork, we now have a positive one," Mr. Lohoar says.

Fruits and nuts were the leading imports in 1978, increasing 26 per cent to \$818 million. Plantation crops, including tea and coffee, were valued at \$716 million. Other leading imports were vegetables at \$446 million, meats at \$331 million, oilseed products at \$263 million and sugar at \$211 million.



"Jet-set" cattle are loaded at Toronto International Airport for shipment to Haiti. Cattle exports accounted for \$165 million in 1978.