

The Great Port

The Port of Vancouver flanks Burrard Inlet. Behind it are the mountains lush with trees and stuffed with minerals. Before it are the rich and poor nations of the Pacific — Japan, China, Australia, Indonesia, Korea, the Philippines, Thailand, New Zealand, India, South and Central America and the United States.

Vancouver trades with all of them. It is, in terms of tonnage, the largest port on the Pacific Coast of North America. More sea traffic moves out of it and its associated ports than from either the St. Lawrence River or Nova Scotia.

Two of B.C.'s top exports, wood and grain, are renewable resources. Their handling before shipment is highly sophisticated. British Columbia's wood harvests leave home in finished or semi-finished form: pulp, newsprint, kraft paper, plywood, millwork, chips, shakes and shingles or lumber. Last year's wood exports were valued at \$2,504,600,000.

The exported grain includes red spring wheat, drum wheat, barley and rapeseed. The red spring wheat from the prairies is the chief commodity,

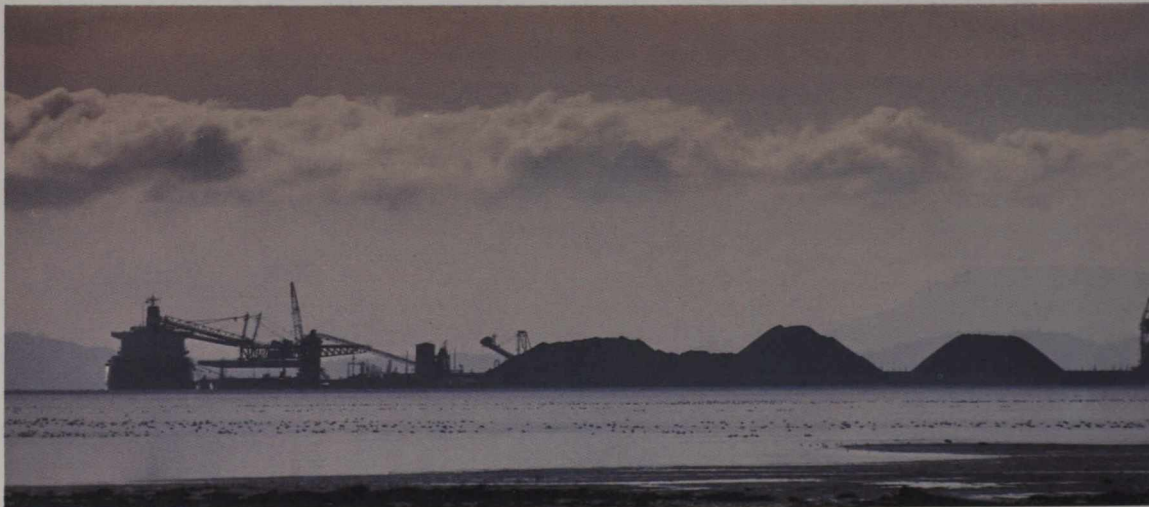
with shipments last year valued at \$907,300,000. Red spring is delivered by rail cars to three Vancouver terminals, one owned by the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool, one by the Alberta Pool, and one owned jointly by both of them and the much smaller group of Manitoba growers. Two other elevators handle rapeseed and barley.

Another major export is coal. Last year \$712,400,000 worth went out of Roberts Bank, a high-speed depot twenty-one miles southwest of downtown Vancouver. Built for Kaiser Resources Limited (and currently being greatly expanded), it stores and loads coal from the company's mines in the Crow's Nest fields 685 miles inland in the Rockies.

The Canadian government dredged the silt from the Strait of Georgia's tidal flats to a depth of sixty-five feet, and the terminal can handle bulk carriers up to 125,000 tons. The coal from Kaiser and other sole-contract mines all goes to Japan.

British Columbia also exports minerals, water power in the form of electricity, trucks, aircraft parts, computers and sophisticated engineering skills.

Its best customers are the United States and Japan — the U.S. bought \$5,279,861,000 worth of goods in 1979 and Japan bought \$3,393,551,000.



Coal is stored and loaded at Roberts Bank.

The Several Geographies of British Columbia

British Columbia is a large and varied place.

It has several climates and terrains but, considering its size, few people. At the southern end of the coast its two major cities offer urban beauty and high life. The coast from Juan de Fuca to Alaska, warmed by the Japanese currents, is lush and wet, with channels, streams, fiords, straits and islands, the rich delta of the Fraser and

jagged mountains towering over the coast. Queen Charlotte Island and the northern coast remain the home and living showplace of the Indian tribes and their extraordinary cultures. In the southern interior are dry valleys with cactus. In the central region broad plateaus with deep canyons and narrow river terraces lie between mountains. In the north are endless trees and occasional ranches.

The Georgia Straits

Vancouver Island, the largest off-shore island in Canada, lies like a loaf of sourdough bread, north