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Multilateral trade negotiations benefit Canadian agriculture

Agriculture Minister John Wise has urged the Canadian agricultural industry to take advantage of the new, improved, and more secure export market opportunities created by the recently completed multilateral trade negotiations (MTN).

"After six years of tough bargaining, the negotiations are completed. But now the real action must begin. Tariff cuts on their own do not generate trade. It is now up to Canadian farmers, processors and exporters to translate these opportunities into cash sales," said Mr. Wise. "I look forward to working with all segments of the industry to meet the production and marketing challenges we face."

Tariff concessions for Canadian exports

U.S. concessions cover nearly \$500 million of imports from Canada and affect 80 per cent of the dutiable items exported from Canada to the U.S. About \$230-million worth of previously suitable Canadian agricultural exports to the U.S. now will enter duty-free. Another \$60 million will be subject to tariff reductions of 50 per cent or more. A number of U.S. and Canadian tariffs on products which

are traded both ways have been reduced and matched at a lower level.

The European Economic Community (EEC), Canada's largest market for agricultural products, will reduce tariffs on a limited but nevertheless significant range of agricultural products, affecting about \$140-million worth of Canadian exports.

In Japan, Canada's largest single country market for agricultural products, Canada obtained tariff concessions covering more than \$400 million of exports at 1978 levels.

In general, the tariff reductions will be phased in over a seven-year period beginning January 1, 1980 and ending January 1, 1987.

Canada's 1978 agricultural trade

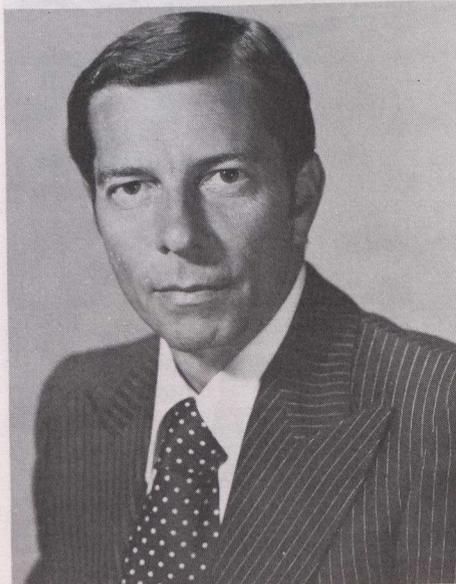
The value of agricultural exports and imports reached record levels in 1978. Last year, Canadian agricultural exports rose by 13.2 per cent in value to a new high of \$4,830 million. Agricultural imports had a similar growth in value, increasing by 12.8 per cent to just over \$4 billion. Canada's trade surplus rose by 15 per cent to \$817 million last year.

"Because of the lower value of the dollar there has been a greater demand in the international market-place for our agricultural produce, which has been translated into increased sales," explains Jim Lohar, an economist at Agriculture Canada in Ottawa.

"At the same time, however, the lower dollar has made imported farm produce more expensive here in Canada.

"One reason for the higher value of exports has been the increased quantities of our goods sold abroad. For example, Canada exported 18.6 million metric tonnes of grains last year valued at almost \$2.4 billion, up from the 17.7 million metric tonnes we exported in 1977 worth \$2.2 billion. The volume of rapeseed also has increased sharply by 56 per cent in two years."

Other areas of export growth included processed grain products such as wheat



Agriculture Minister John Wise.

Twenty years ago this week...

Northern Affairs Minister Hamilton announced the discovery of oil at Eagle Plain in the Yukon. It was the first such discovery in the Yukon.

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