

Madam Minister, is agriculture important in Canada's export trade?

Yes, most definitely. Canadian exports of all agri-food products in 1985 were approximately \$9.5 billion, or about 8% of our total exports. Of that, grains and oilseeds account for over 50%, livestock and meat products about 18%, and processed foods, including beverages and feeds, about 22%.

Canada has a long-standing reputation around the world as a major supplier of high quality milling wheat; we are also a major exporter of other cereal grains, oilseeds and special crops, for example lentils and feed ingredients like dehydrated alfalfa.

Our animal breeding stock -- dairy, beef and swine -- also enjoy a reputation for high quality and productivity, thanks to our stringent national animal health programs. Canadian poultry breeding stock is also well known - and exported -- throughout the world.

While we have some established traditional trade in certain markets - forage seed, apples and white beans to the U.K., dairy cattle to Japan and South America, seed potatoes to Italy and Venezuela - there is a whole range of other perhaps lesser known products that appeal to buyers around the world: Canada exports blueberries to Japan, mushrooms to Germany, mustard seed to France, soybeans to Malaysia, goats to Brazil, dried peas and lentils to the Middle East.

And, I suppose that these exports help the Canadian economy?

That's true. These exports are very

INTERVIEW WITH THE HONOURABLE PAT CARNEY, MINISTER FOR INTERNATIONAL TRADE

important to our agricultural sector: they represented nearly 45% of total farm receipts in 1985, at almost \$10 billion. There are a lot of agri-food jobs that are dependent on these exports. That's why this government places a high priority on maintaining and enhancing our foreign markets.

We offer the quality that buyers are looking for, backed up by government inspection and grade standards, and advanced

production technology.

What about technology? Does it really play an important role?

It certainly does. Canadian grain production has always been efficient by world standards, but over the years, those producers, and the farm machinery industry that serves them, have developed new methods and equipment to improve their efficiency even further. As a result, Canada can



Minister for International Trade Pat Carney during a recent visit to Japan.