

"I am pleased that the surtax has been lifted," Mr. Olson said recently, "and I am hopeful that the Canadian agricultural industry will be able to boost exports as our competitive position improves."

The lifting of the surtax means that Canadian exports to the United States revert to the tariff levels in effect before August 14. "This is good news for producers of a number of commodities," Mr. Olson said. "In addition, the change in the relationships among currencies should improve the competitive position of Canadian agricultural exports in Europe and Japan."

"We expect the Canadian dollar will remain close to par with the United States dollar. That will mean that our competitive position will improve in the European Common Market and Japan. Our competitive position with United States products for these markets will, of course, remain the same," he added.

In the past few months, assistance programs have been offered for fowl slaughter, turkey meat purchases, potato price supports, apple promotion and blueberry deficiency payments.

"These commitments will be honoured," Mr. Olson declared.

## QUEBEC'S CERTIFIED SHEPHERD

Gonzague de Mauraige is the only certified shepherd in Quebec, where he has been tending flocks for 40 years. His profession becomes more and more important as sheep-raising expands in several regions as a result of increased industrialization of modern agriculture in Quebec.

Mr. de Mauraige is currently managing a pilot project in the Outaouais region, involving the tending of more than 2,000 sheep, divided into 50 pens. He wants to demonstrate sheep-raising as the basis of extensive exploitation in marginal agricultural zones, and the low cost of installations for this type of exploitation.

This professional shepherd was born in the South of France, studied his trade at the Rambouillet sheep-tending school, where he obtained a diploma. He

emigrated to Canada when he was 18 and, after spending some years in the West working with large flocks, he went to Quebec and bought a 300-acre farm in the Chicoutimi region, where he was able to raise sheep as well as cattle. Later, because his sons were not interested in farming Mr. de Mauraige sold the farm and returned to sheep-tending. He spent 13 years with experimental farming establishments in Normandin (Lake St. Jean) and La Pocatière (Kamouraska) looking after flocks. Besides tending some 20,000 head, he acted as adviser to stock-breeders in the Lower St. Lawrence-Gaspé regions. At La Pocatière, Mr. de Mauraige taught a complete course on how to succeed in sheep-raising and develop strength in small lambs. He also helped publish a magazine dealing with sheep-raising.



*Mr. de Mauraige in one of the Outaouais sheep pens.*