

It usually takes 30 to 40 gallons of sap to produce a gallon of maple syrup, depending on the sweetness of the sap. Uniform heating is important to the production of high-quality syrup, for it is during the boiling that the product acquires its full flavour — or loses it. Oil- or gas-fired evaporators provide more uniform heat than wood fires, and also save a great deal of work.

Packing, stocking and marketing

When the syrup is ready, it is filtered and packed in cans of various sizes, depending on its commercial destination. This is done while the syrup is still hot — 87°C (189°F) or more — so that the heat sterilizes the can and prevents the syrup from turning sour. Once canned, the syrup must be stored in a cool, dry place — at 5°C (41°F) if possible —, a space being left between the cans to allow air to circulate.

The syrup-producer must then put his product within reach of the consumer in a suitable form, and at a suitable time and place. In Quebec, some 90 per cent of all production is sold to large marketing firms, which pack and grade it for retail sale. In other producing provinces, however, most syrup is sold by the producer to retail outlets, or directly to consumers.

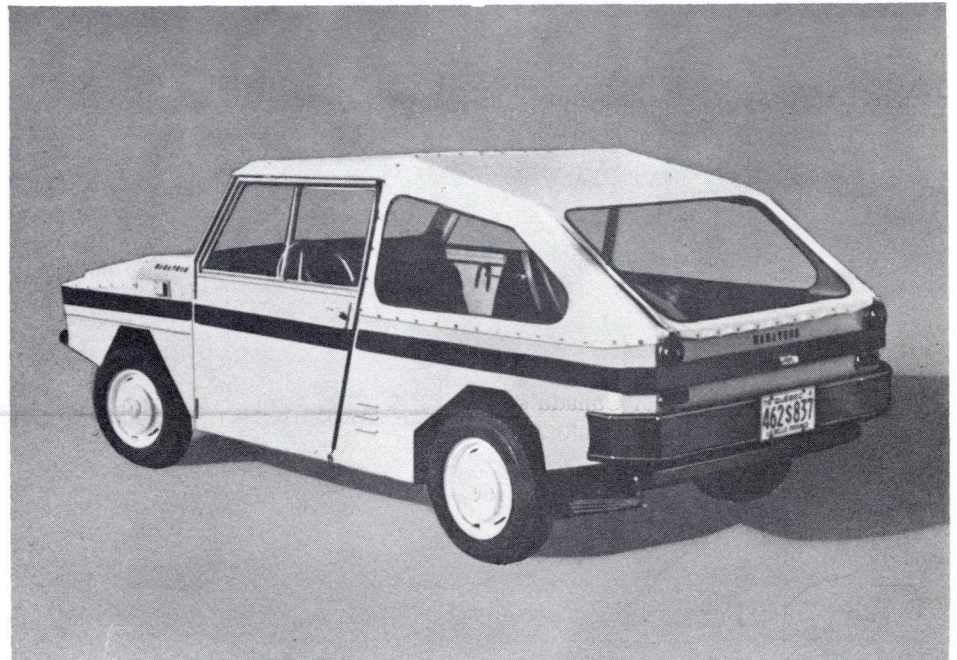
Maple syrup is graded on the basis of colour, taste, concentration of salts, solid matter held in suspension, and any sugars other than sucrose (such as fructose and glucose). In addition, it is tested for lead, which may be present for a variety of reasons, including the use of poor-quality evaporators.

Colour is particularly important in grading but, to be graded in a class corresponding to its colour, a syrup must rate between 65 and 70 degrees on the Brix scale (a standard method of measuring the strength of sugar solutions).

Consumption

Pure maple syrup is an organic food. Nutritious, delicious and versatile, it can be enjoyed in a number of ways. In its most popular form, it is served "as is" on pancakes, waffles, ice cream or other desserts. Further processed, it is enjoyed as taffy, soft sugar, hard sugar, pieces or crystals, and maple butter. It can also be used as an ingredient in a number of dishes.

Since pioneer times, the maple-sugar



Newly-developed Canadian electric vehicle

The electric *Marathon*, model C-300, is a pollution-free, versatile vehicle, powered by battery, which its manufacturer claims is ideally suited for a variety of industrial uses, as well as for urban transportation, golf courses and holiday resorts.

The C-300, designed and built in Canada by Marathon Electric Vehicles Ltd of Montreal, Quebec, will travel at speeds of up to 35 mph (56 kph) and will carry two persons plus cargo. It has a range of about 50 miles (80 kilometres) on one charge. Batteries can be charged from any 110-volt AC outlet with an on-board charger. There is an adapter for 220 volts.

The C-300 has hydraulic brakes, with back-up emergency brakes and a 72-volt patented *Marathon* electrical system.

harvest has played an important role in the traditions of Eastern Canada and the New England states. Coming as it does at the end of a long, hard winter, it heralds the beginning of spring and the first stirring of new life.

Even today, when most people live in cities and have little contact with their rural origins, crowds head for the bush at sugaring time, the adults to delight in its nostalgic sights and smells, the children to enjoy a pan of maple taffy, poured hot over clean snow and twirled on a stick.

Length is 154 inches by 56 inches and height is 53 inches. The total payload is 850 pounds (385 kilograms).

A feature of the C-300 is the vehicle's speed and range performance, which can be varied to best suit requirements. In an application where the speed requirement might be a maximum of 20 mph (32 kph), range can be increased to approximately 70 miles (112 kms) per charge. Conversely, higher maximum speeds — up to 50 mph (81 kph) — can be provided, but with a resultant reduction in range.

Rent controls in Manitoba

Rent controls, restrictions on absentee landowners and further changes in labour laws are major features of the New Democratic Party government's 1976 legislative program for the province of Manitoba outlined on February 11 in the speech from the throne.

Premier Ed Schreyer has promised to introduce rent-control legislation soon as part of the government's pledge of qualified support for the federal anti-inflation program.

The legislation is to be retroactive to October, 1975.

The government is not expected to prohibit ownership of land by foreigners, but there is support for controls on non-resident landowners.