

A PIONEER FROM MOOSE JAW



J. GORDON ROSS (deceased)

Perhaps more than any other individual, J. Gordon Ross must be credited with the early establishment of the Canadian rapeseed industry. He was a farmer, industrialist and Member of Parliament from the plains of Saskatchewan. He and his associates formed Prairie Vegetable Oils Ltd. in 1945, two years after rapeseed was first produced in Western Canada. This plant was sold in 1951.

The J. Gordon Ross Syndicate was formed in 1951 and for the next three years the total rapeseed crop was handled by this group. Most of the crop then was grown under contract. His efforts to establish rapeseed as a crop continued for a number of years and one of his collaborators was Ken Powell of Winnipeg.

Mr. Ross represented Canada as Chairman of the first Canadian Oilseeds Trade Mission sent to Europe in 1961. His contribution to the development of the rapeseed industry in Canada was outstanding and to his determination the industry today owes a real debt.

In his latter years, Mr. Ross turned his attention to the production of sunflowerseed. He imported the new varieties being grown in the USSR and was successful in building up a sizeable acreage in this crop not only in Saskatchewan but also in Alberta.