

Here I am sure that no elaboration is needed in order to establish that the physical environment varies across the province. From the agricultural point of view, it is obvious that the topography, the soil, the climate, etc. is different in different parts of the province. These physical environmental factors do not determine the specific type of agriculture that will be carried on, but they do set the outside limits. For example, in stoney areas, other things being favorable, livestock production can be carried on. Within the category of livestock production, a number of alternatives are possible, beef cattle, dairy cattle, sheep, etc. but because of the stones, grain production is not possible. So physical environment may set outside limits, but it does not specifically determine the type of agriculture.

In addition to the variations in the physical environment, there are also significant differences in the social environment. Values and attitudes are influenced by the parents, the church, the school, etc. This I do not deny. But these develop in order for us to adjust to the conditions in which we find ourselves. However, the social environment is subject to influence and change, and thus given the right programs and policies, it is possible to change the attitudes and thus the conditions of those of us who happened to have been born on the wrong side of the track.

I have possibly spent more time on this topic than I needed to, but I have done so for a very good reason.

A Polish sociologist, Mr. Znaniiecki, established a principle that has considerable relevance to rural development. This principle is "That if a person believes a situation is real, it is real in its consequences". Relating this to some of the things I have been saying, I would point out that if we believe that the people in the problem areas in our provinces are lazy, shiftless, satisfied with their lot, etc. then our actions will be governed by these beliefs and nothing will be done. This is why I have tried so hard to establish that there is no basis, in fact, in these beliefs.

If everyone believed these misconceptions, we would not have a multi-million dollar particle board plant in Sprague, nor would a community pasture have been organized in Stuartburn, nor would we have a co-operative strawberry growing organization at Hadashville.

Fortunately, there are people in many walks of life, particularly the local residents, who do not hold these misconceptions. Because of these people development projects and programs will continue and the physical and human resources in our so-called problem areas will be brought into balance.