

Canadian Farm Loan Act

still large blocks of land in suitable areas—do not forget the word “suitable”—which could be opened up. I maintain that this will have to be done in order to provide for our rapidly growing population. Agriculture in Canada must remain a solid and permanent segment of our national economy and any encouragement toward this end will mean increases in our national wealth which should prove of great benefit to our over-all economy.

I believe that this board could be used to stimulate that kind of activity and it should be able to play a much wider part in assisting our young farmers and those who are on the land at the present time to take the action they feel is necessary and which they feel could be carried on to a successful conclusion in order that our young people may make a success of their planned operation. In closing I suggest that the internal operations of this board should be overhauled thoroughly and it should be made an active and dynamic force in our agricultural economy.

Mr. A. W. Stuart (Charlotte): Mr. Speaker, any measure introduced into this house designed to improve the lot and the living standards of our primary producer always receives my support. I realize that many of the services provided for some of our primary producers may not be accepted by the producers themselves, and I am referring particularly to our experimental farms. We have a very beautiful experimental farm in our province and I am told by the officials of that organization that the farmers in some areas seek information at all times while it is difficult to interest the farmers in other areas in what they have to offer. I believe it would be well worth while for any farmer in the province of New Brunswick to visit that experimental farm where he will find that most helpful information is available and is being provided without cost. The officials are only too glad to lend assistance at any time.

In his remarks a few minutes ago the hon. member for Restigouche-Madawaska (Mr. Van Horne) indicated that the farmers of the maritime provinces were the forgotten people. I know that many farmers in the maritime provinces are finding it difficult to get by at this time as many of them are located on what might be termed so-called farms where the farmer must depend upon his wood lot for ready cash. I acknowledge without any hesitation that many of our farmers are finding it difficult to get by, but at the same time I believe we should give full credit to the Department of Agriculture for the assistance that has been provided in an effort to meet

[Mr. McLeod.]

this situation. I note that the following expenditures were made at the experimental farm in Fredericton:

1952-53	\$ 230,000
1953-54	214,000
1954-55	253,000
1955-56	281,000
1956-57	267,000

Scientific research, farm, woodland insect pests:

1953-54	\$ 318,000
1954-55	354,000
1955-56	352,000
1956-57 to date	319,000

For marshland rehabilitation the following expenditures were made:

1952-53	\$ 777,000
1953-54	1,066,000
1954-55	670,000
1955-56	885,000
1956-57 to end December	363,000

Then subsidies on feed grain:

1953	\$1,144,000
1954	1,007,000
1955	1,004,000
1956	1,112,000
1957 to end of January	746,000

Provision of lime products:

1953	\$ 51,000
1954	56,000
1955	53,000
1956	45,000
1957 to date	42,000

One method by which our farmers have been assisted, and which is given very little publicity, is through the subsidy to potato growers. I find that in the year 1954-55 potato growers in our province were paid a subsidy of \$2,200,000. Last year they were paid \$455,000. In the last three years they have been paid \$53,000, \$46,000 and \$42,000 in hog premiums. I must give credit where credit is due, and I suggest that the Department of Agriculture has done everything it can to try to help the farmers in our area. I will admit there are many farms which perhaps will never provide the farmers with the type of living that we would like to see them have, but I wanted to put these figures on the record to show that the government and the Department of Agriculture have played their part so far as the province of New Brunswick is concerned.

Mr. L. E. Cardiff (Huron): Mr. Speaker, I agree with the hon. member for Northumberland (Mr. Robertson) that there are some commendable features in the bill, but when he says that the farmers of Ontario are satisfied with the Canadian farm loan board I do not agree. Last year one-half of the applications from Ontario received by the loan board were turned down. In my opinion this is not very satisfactory. At the time the resolution