

the best chance for a viable agricultural industry in this area.

Lowbush blueberries, cranberries, Christmas trees and tobacco show promise in specific areas of the province; the potential for expansion in these crops should be further investigated.

That is the end of the summary on the situation in Nova Scotia.

Hon. Mr. Choquette: There is nothing on grasshoppers or anything like that?

Hon. Mr. Carter: They do not have grasshoppers, and we do not have snakes in Newfoundland.

Hon. Mr. Langlois: It is too close to salt water.

Hon. Mr. Carter: The New Brunswick survey was limited to the tidal marshes of the Tantramar area at the head of the Bay of Fundy. The principal findings of that survey are to be found at page 30 of CLI Report No. 9, and are as follows:

1. The Tantramar area was once one of the most important and prosperous agricultural areas in New Brunswick. Now, however, only 79 of the 372 interviewed landowners holding five acres or more in the area are dependent on the sale of crop and livestock products for their major source of income. Only 22 of these 79 landowners reported gross farm incomes exceeding \$5,000 per annum, and they account for 80 per cent of the area's gross farm income. Eight of these 22 owners are over 60 years of age and will soon leave the agricultural industry. This leaves the area with only 14 farm operators who can be considered as having long-term viability.

Substantial inputs of capital and of management training would be required to raise the incomes of the other farm operations to acceptable levels. Given the magnitude of the inputs required and the current technological and economic conditions affecting Canadian agriculture, it is unlikely that such allocations would prove to be economic.

2. Three groups of landowners, those who derive the major share of their income from non-farm sources, landowners over 60 years of age but not in commercial agriculture, and non-resident owners, together account for 82% of the landowners interviewed. They control 58 per cent of the total acreage and 40 per cent of the improved agricultural land reported in the landowner interviews.

3. Resource-based income is derived from farming, forestry and fishing; however, forestry and fishing account for less than 5 per cent of the total gross income from resource-based activities.

4. Income from non-resource-based activity accounts for nearly 82 per cent of the estimated total net cash income earned by the landowners for all sources. Government transfer payments alone account for 20 per cent of total net cash income and exceed agriculture and the other resource-based activities as an income producer.

5. Landowner incomes tend to be very modest; only 9 per cent of the interviewed landowners have net cash incomes exceeding \$6,000 per annum, whereas 74

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per cent earn less than \$4,000 per annum. The non-farmers under 60 years of age, as a group, have larger net cash incomes than the farmers. Only 25 per cent of the non-farmers have net cash incomes less than \$3,000 per annum in contrast to 61 per cent of the farmers.

6. The Canada Land Inventory data indicate that 31,000 acres of cleared land are located in the study area. However, the landowner interviews which accounted for virtually all of the improved farm land, revealed that there are only 19,000 acres of improved farm land. Furthermore, a detailed survey of present land use carried out in 1967-68 indicated that only 11,800 were used regularly for agricultural uses. These figures indicate that a considerable portion of the 31,000 acres of cleared land in the area is idle or has been abandoned by agriculture.

● (1440)

Paragraph 7 describes the pattern of agricultural land use in the area, and goes on to say:

Two clearly defined agricultural nodes can be delineated on the basis of an analysis of the present pattern of agricultural land use and the factors underlying it. These are:

- (a) the Middle-Upper Sackville area,
- (b) the Point de Bute area.

Together these two agricultural nodes produce three-quarters of the gross farm income generated in the Tantramar area in 1967-68.

I skip over paragraph 8, which states that fragmentation of land holdings presents a major obstacle to the promotion of more effective use of the area's land resources. I come to paragraph 9, which reads:

The waterfowl habitat of the Tantramar area is of major significance, even when judged at the national level. The marsh area contains some of the most productive waterfowl habitat in eastern Canada and is located on a major lane of the Atlantic migratory bird flyway.

The report goes on to say in paragraph 10:

The social and community structure of the area is in a state of disorganization.

It concludes with a number of recommendations, but I have not been able to find out whether any of the recommendations have been implemented.

The total land area of Canada is estimated at 2,272 million acres, of which about 68 per cent is forest. The 1956 census showed that only 184 million acres were occupied at that time, and only 174 million acres, or 7 per cent, were utilized for farming. The 1966 census showed 174.1 million acres in farms, practically unchanged from a decade earlier. The 1971 census, however, showed a decrease of 2.6 per cent, down to 169.7 million acres, the first drop since 1940.

I have a table provided by Statistics Canada which shows the decrease by provinces. If honourable senators agree, I would ask that it be inserted in *Hansard* at this point.

The Hon. the Speaker: Is that agreed, honourable senators?