

worked as a separate farm; and the only peculiarity about it is that it is the result of a division of a larger farm which was originally provided with a crossing.

The practice of the Board regarding farm crossings required because of this division of larger farms into smaller ones, has not been uniform. Sometimes such a crossing has been made at the expense of the applicant farmer; sometimes the cost has been divided between the farmer and the railway company; and not unfrequently, especially in Eastern Ontario and the Province of Quebec, the entire cost has been imposed upon the railway company—the facts and circumstances, especially the size of the farms resulting from the division, being considered in each case.

The standard farm in central and western Ontario is 100 acres; the farms in portions of eastern Ontario and in the Province of Quebec are often much smaller; so if a 300-acre or a 200-acre farm, each served by only one farm crossing, is divided into 100-acre farms to be occupied and worked separately, it seems that, under section 252, the railway company should, at its own expense, provide a crossing for each of the resultant farms. There must, of course, be a limit to the installation of farm crossings resulting from the division of farm land; and I think that, generally speaking, the only plot of land which is entitled to a farm crossing at the expense of a railway company, is one which is occupied and worked separately as a farm for the support of a man and his family, whatever it may be.

In size, Mr. Riddell's farm is between the standard of Quebec and that of central and western Ontario: so it would appear that he is entitled to a separate crossing, wholly on his own land; but he has consented to accept a crossing on the line between him and his neighbour, Mr. Dicks.

Therefore, my opinion is that the Grand Trunk Railway Company should be directed to construct, not later than the 20th of April, 1912, a joint crossing on the line between the farms of Mr. Riddell and Mr. Dicks, as shewn on plan "A" prepared by the Chief Engineer of the Board,—using, as far as it may think proper, the material in the crossing on Mr. Dicks's farm, a few feet east of the dividing line between him and Mr. Riddell.

The ASSISTANT CHIEF COMMISSIONER concurred.