

As a solution to the exodus, he suggested machinery stations should be created where small farmers could rent machinery. In addition, he suggested that the Government, as part of its training program, train people to be better farmers.

During coffee, he was asked why they had not tried to create machinery cooperatives. His answer was that the farmers of New Brunswick are independent.

The following are the main points which came out of the presentation and discussion:

New Brunswick is 85 percent forest and the demand for pulp-wood by the year 2000 is estimated to be four times the current demand.

Between 1961 and 1967, the amount of cleared land that is reverting to forest is indicated by the fact that 35,000 acres were clear in 1961 in Kings County, and in 1967, only 7,858 were clear. A woodlot must be greater than 600 acres to provide even a meagre income.

Large companies are buying up small woodlots (free hold land). However, Hart believes that a small owner can produce and sell pulpwood cheaper than the large companies. However, the demand for pulp-wood is such that the large companies can use only their land to meet the demand, keep the mills fully busy, and hence buy from the small woodlot operator at the company's price. A large price premium is paid.

Pulp and paper companies are monopolies in buying and selling wood pulp. Of the crown land, 45 percent of the New Brunswick total, over 80 percent is leased to large pulp and paper companies. Even the 28 percent which has small holdings is not necessarily owned by small operators.

Reverend Hart on Sweden—Sweden has an efficient forestry industry because there are very strong forest owner associations. They export a finished product unlike New Brunswick. They have strong buying and selling cooperatives. They train wood cutters as a profession and provide full time employment unlike New Brunswick which has no trained wood cutters, and provides work for only six months of the year.

Mr. Sparwood suggested that the takeover of the small holdings by the big companies is on. He says that 30 percent of the New Brunswick economy is based upon agriculture, that people get off the land for purely economic reasons (the Swedish situation is different in that there is not as much inducement for the Swedes to leave the farm because the difference in income attainable in the cities and in the rural areas is not that much different).

Snowbow is a farmer and is concerned with the exodus to the cities which he feels is basically caused by the huge rise in agricultural productivity which has resulted in larger, more viable farm units. He says that farmers would be happier to be poor on their farms, than poor in the city.