

*Rural Development*

marginal and submarginal farms which do not make sound economic units. Many of these farms are being vacated and sold to holders of larger units. However, others who have perhaps spent their lives on these farms, as did their parents before them, are reluctant to leave. Anything which would supplement their incomes so that they could continue to live on these farms would be acceptable. With these people in mind I will make some suggestions which I think will be helpful.

The government could assist by soil testing and other research necessary to provide a sound basis for any of these operations. Financial assistance will be a necessity in some of these fields of endeavour. I am thinking now of enterprises which could be satisfactorily adopted by family units. We have many areas suitable for blueberry production on which the Department of Agriculture has up to date information. Other low-lying areas could be utilized for the production of cranberries. Marked success has been achieved by several in this field. This could also be said about blueberry growing, especially in Newfoundland where this is a million dollar industry.

I had an opportunity on a recent visit to the southern part of New Jersey to talk with a man who had a blueberry plantation with four acres under production. This area was unsuitable for other agriculture as it was low-lying and sandy. However, it appeared ideal for the raising of blueberries, and this man was able to make an annual income of \$10,000. He grew special types of cultured blueberries and no doubt had the knowledge required to propagate them. Nevertheless, I believe there are many similar areas in this country which would be suitable for such an operation.

Game farming is relatively new and offers excellent opportunities. Pheasant and other game birds are raised to supply the ever-increasing number of hunt clubs. A few game farms offer sportsmen the opportunity of hunting pheasant and other game birds on a per day or per bird basis. These birds are produced on the farm and released when stock on the preserve is in need of replenishment. Many more such farms will be required to supply the thousands of sportsmen who would like to hunt where game is available.

While I am on the subject of catering to sportsmen I would like to mention fish farming as another means of bolstering the rural

economy. We have thousands of sports fishermen searching the country for streams, ponds or lakes which might yield some reward for their hours of angling. Many farmers own excellent locations for the development of fish farms. I might add that thousands of fish farms are being operated profitably in the United States. We do have some such farms operating successfully, and these derive most of their revenue from supplying large hotels and restaurants with speckled and rainbow trout. Many more people could be absorbed in this industry.

Fur farming has made a worth-while contribution to rural life in Canada over the past 50 or more years. The production of mink is the major operation in this field. Canada was the originator of this industry but today, with a world production of 20 million mink pelts, Canada provides only one and a half million. Some impetus will be registered in this industry no doubt as the result of an American rancher selling black mink skins at the New York auction on May 4 last for \$1,100 each.

This country imported over \$25 million worth of fur in 1965. This is a perturbing fact when we consider we are traditionally a fur producing country. For instance, we imported over \$2 million worth of muskrat fur which could have been produced in our own marshes and lakes. ARDA, through the provisions of the measure before us, can create the proper environment by way of water conservation and resource management to remedy this situation and add substantially to rural incomes.

An organization which should be encouraged is a group of farm people who have banded together for the purpose of promotion of an enterprise known as "Farm Vacations". The idea has now spread to several provinces and each year more farmers will identify themselves with the enterprise and share and expand its possibilities. These farmers supply accommodation in their homes to urban families seeking an opportunity to enjoy rural life. This sort of holiday is becoming very popular because whole families can now enjoy a splendid vacation at reasonable rates in an environment which is healthy and appealing to children.

Many farms throughout the country possess spacious homes which provide ideal circumstances for the promotion of farm vacations. Of course, these people are quick to provide other attractions of which there is a large variety. Farm vacations open an avenue by