

property belonging to about 3,800 persons and form an integral part of an estimated 450,000 acres of farmland. Marshlands are more fertile than adjacent upland soils, and with proper management they supplement upland regions, as irrigated areas contribute to dry farm operations on the Prairies.

(c) *Drainage Improvement in Quebec*

Briefs concerning the needs of land drainage in parts of the Province of Quebec were received. One paper outlined programs that the provincial government has had underway for some years which encourage and assist the farmers to drain their lands. It discussed, in detail, the assistance offered persons in surface drainage, sub-surface drainage and related farm improvements. Assistance is also provided municipalities for the preparation and maintenance of municipal watercourses.

A second submission elaborated in more detail the need for drainage in many areas of Quebec. This brief also discussed the extension of the use of irrigation in some areas of Quebec.

In the discussion of drainage of agricultural lands of Quebec, it was estimated that about one million acres are presently being drained but that this should be extended by 10 million to 20 million acres. Attention was directed to the need for an educational program that would point out the benefits of drainage of many of Quebec soils.

(d) *Irrigation in Canada and Its Impact*

In proceedings No. 8 a brief which outlined irrigation in Canada is included. This brief discussed the history of irrigation as well as its extent and its use.

Seven factors were singled out and discussed as worthy of consideration when irrigation development is contemplated. These seven factors are: water supply, engineering, soil and other physical characteristics of the land, efficiency in use of water, climate, markets and human reaction.

Regarding the development of more irrigated land, the brief had this say—

There are those who question the expansion of irrigation in Western Canada at the present time, for dryland production appears to be adequate for our needs and even for creating surpluses, but we have been passing through a cycle of better than average natural precipitation. The situation may be different if we were to pass into a dry cycle, such as occurred in the thirties. Irrigated tracts so strategically located as there are in Western Canada within the most drought vulnerable parts of our country will be needed, particularly for forage to alleviate a situation which could create forced liquidation of valuable herds. Moreover, in building irrigation systems we are laying the foundation for food production in the future when Canada's needs will be much greater. Hence, public investment in irrigation development would seem to be justified.

(e) *Conservation with Particular Reference to Ontario*

A brief which discussed the wisdom and urgency of land use planning for Ontario in particular, and all of Canada generally, was considered by the Committee. The treatise which was presented the Committee argued very forcefully for safeguarding the better agricultural land and also for the need of acquiring and planning for more land for recreational purposes. In this presentation the requirements of land for forestry and wildlife uses were also discussed. The effect that taxes have on land use was also dwelt with in the brief with suggested changes in the tax structure being outlined. The relation of the limited water resource to land use was also considered.