

No doubt in western Canada they could organize better than they do in the east. I suppose that is partly what you meant when you mentioned that only 10 per cent of the farmers will go to some of the meetings and 90 per cent are absent. That shows individualism, and again that is one of the problems. I do not know if that could also be solved.

Dr. RIPLEY: I think there is no doubt about that, Senator Bradette, and when you start talking about moving a man from one farm to another or from one place to another there is a problem of individualism to be dealt with there.

Senator TAYLOR (*Westmorland*): Mr. Chairman, may I ask Dr. Ripley this: don't you think that in a lot of these areas that there are quite a number of people who realize it themselves, I mean if a man is a reasonably good farmer he wants to do a good job of farming but he is crippled on account of the poverty of the soil he is working now, and by his financial circumstances, and if some organization—I realize it cannot be the federal Government or the provincial government alone, but I do believe that a combination of those two with the municipal authorities of the place in which this man lives could say to this man, "Do you want to move on to other land, do you want to sell your property and establish on a more suitable unit for a farming operation?", I believe that a great majority of these people would want to do it. I know that this is taking place by evolution. In my province there are areas that when I was a boy were given over to farming and today that land is growing up as forest. It should always have remained in forest, it should never have been opened up to farming. Now, some of these people were forced out of farming in those areas and they had to go to the towns and the cities and get a job but their heart is back there in the soil and I believe if some organization can be set up, a general organization composed of the three levels of Government, a member of which the farmer would recognize as his neighbour and one who would try to help him, he would be more willing to accept a proposition of that nature than anything else. I believe that a lot of people would like to be established elsewhere.

Dr. RIPLEY: I think so too, but where would you move them?

Senator TAYLOR (*Westmorland*): In New Brunswick we have a lot of good farms which by reason of the fact that the boys and the children had no interest in farming, are lying idle today, the farmers having moved away from them. There are a lot of them in that province. There are a lot of absentee owners.

Dr. RIPLEY: I think that is true. I had a statement of the number of abandoned farms and it is amazing. There are something like 35,000 abandoned farms, 5 million acres of them.

Senator McGRAND: Have you listed the vacant farms in New Brunswick?

Senator TAYLOR (*Westmorland*): I am thinking of one area alone, a lovely area and good farmland, but none of the young farm people in that area wanted to farm, they went to the towns and the cities. And I know of other similar areas in our province where people would like to move to from where they are now, getting on to some of these properties but they have not the finances to do it.

Dr. RIPLEY: I believe that is one of the ways in which relief could be given.

Senator TAYLOR (*Westmorland*): Of course I realize you cannot force them to do it, it must be done voluntarily.

Dr. RIPLEY: That is right, if it could be made sort of interesting.

Senator TAYLOR (*Westmorland*): Now, in the matter of research don't you think that agriculture the world over is far, far behind in the matter of research?