

Farm Indebtedness

The next table deals only with the total farm acreage and farm indebtedness per acre. Throughout the country, assuming the total indebtedness to be \$726,026,500, and the total

farm acreage to include, as I have said, partly rented and partly owned land, the average farm indebtedness per acre is only \$4.45. The table follows:

Estimated Total Mortgage Indebtedness, Total Farm Acreage, and Farm Debt per Acre, by Provinces

Province	Estimated Total Mortgage Indebtedness	Total Farm Acreage	Farm Indebtedness per acre
	\$		\$
Prince Edward Island.....	4,926,400	1,191,202	4 14
Nova Scotia.....	6,648,100	4,302,031	1 55
New Brunswick.....	6,584,700	4,151,598	1 59
Quebec.....	98,121,500	17,445,039	5 62
Ontario.....	210,315,900	22,840,898	9 21
Manitoba.....	67,157,500	15,131,685	4 44
Saskatchewan.....	196,558,300	55,673,460	3 53
Alberta.....	120,061,100	38,977,457	3 08
British Columbia.....	15,653,000	3,541,541	4 42
Canada.....	726,026,500	163,254,959	4 45

Mr. DUFF: Is the Prime Minister including free land as well as mortgaged land?

Mr. BENNETT: I am dealing in that instance with the lands designated as farm lands, which include lands wholly owned by the occupying farmer and lands partly owned and partly rented, and the total indebtedness of farm lands so designated—it will be remembered that we designated lands as farm lands in the maritime provinces that possibly were very small in the way of farms, being in some cases only a few acres of clearing—averaged only \$4.45 per acre. I shall see that these tables are placed on Hansard.

Mr. HOWDEN: Does that include wild lands?

Mr. BENNETT: No, I tried to make clear that grazing lands were segregated from other lands. There might be on some of a farmer's lands a certain area which was pasture land, or as the hon. member has suggested, possibly wild lands, but the designation for census purposes was the curtilage of the farm,—I think that is the word in the books. That is lands that were comprised in the farm that was spoken of as the man's farm. Sometimes it might be many thousands of acres, sometimes a few acres only. But that designation in the census figures of 1931 was taken, with the result I have just indicated.

Mr. MERCIER (St. Henri): Might I add to the remarks I previously made that there is considerable anxiety in the city of Montreal and elsewhere in the province of Quebec at

[Mr. Bennett.]

the report appearing in yesterday's papers that after June 15 federal relief will be cut off? If that is the case, may I ask if the real estate owner will be secured for his land? I know that the matter is very complicated, but will something be done?

Mr. BENNETT: I am dealing with the farm lands situation. I can only say that the matter has been brought frequently to the attention of the government. It is a matter of the greatest difficulty in the western cities as well as in the city of Montreal, and if there is any remedy that can be discovered for the situation we shall be very glad indeed to adopt it.

Mr. SPEAKMAN: There was one point touched upon by the Prime Minister in his preliminary remarks when the resolution was before the house, and that was in respect to the application of the present Bankruptcy Act to farmers under the proposed legislation. I think the Prime Minister intimated that the full provisions of the Bankruptcy Act would not prevail for the present at least because of the long standing objection on the part of farmers to coming under its full terms. I did not understand, however, to what extent the farmer would continue to be exempt from the compulsory features of the Bankruptcy Act; that is those provisions under which the creditor may force the debtor against his will into bankruptcy. As the Prime Minister and no doubt the house know, under the present Bankruptcy Act a farmer cannot be forced into bankruptcy by a creditor but he may go