

the production of timber. The forest-farm plan, or forestry establishment, should allow the occupant to enjoy the benefits of modern life. But in carrying out these plans, it should be remembered that many of these parishes, already organized as regards municipality, school and church, are often burdened with debts. Something should be done to see that they honour their obligations, unless we could some day discover a type of production suited to such lands. This has happened in the past; barren sandy lands, around Joliette for instance, farms which once sold for \$1,000 or \$2,000, when turned over to the production of flue-cured tobacco, became prosperous farms, whose value increased tenfold.

I look forward to the time when the committee mentioned in the speech from the throne will consider this problem and, following the best agricultural technique and drawing upon the latest findings of agricultural sciences, will suggest solutions that are fair to every one. The people who live in these sections of our agricultural domain are able to work and willing to learn. The occupant of a farm rarely refuses to co-operate when a method of work or system of operation is suggested to him which lies within his financial means and which might enable him to obtain a reasonable income.

There is no point in leaving things in their present condition. Men and lands deteriorate. Let us not assume too hastily that the operators are not competent because the land is unproductive.

The agricultural policies of a country usually form part of the general program. It is obvious that the general program and the agricultural policies are based on the economic, social or philosophical concepts. I shall not discuss the concepts on which national policies may be based and all those which may influence agricultural policies. I must point out, however, that we must strive, in all fields of human endeavour, to achieve the harmonious development—with just results—of our natural and human resources. Whether or not the eastern section of the country should rely on industry first of all, and on agriculture in the second place is unimportant. It is a well-known fact that industry should depend on agriculture and give it some support. And agriculture policies can only be based on research and on an analysis of the situation in the light of the most advanced knowledge. Only in this way can a field of endeavour be examined, understood and policies adapted thereto.

Research must not be limited to the economic aspect of agriculture; it must also take into account its social and national features. Undoubtedly, production must take

care of the market requirements. Furthermore, the best techniques must be introduced and generalized by all available means. But at the same time, it is important that the type of farmers found in the east and throughout the country be retained on the farm, for they are land owners and heads of the ideal families, those who earn their daily bread by pooling their efforts.

However, quick results must not be expected. Agriculture is a time-consuming industry. It is governed by its own laws which frequently are rigid, inflexible. It is a biological process. It follows that true agricultural policies must be long term ones. They must provide for orderly management and wise spending.

In 1953, Canadians bought \$3,750,000,000 worth of foodstuffs; food worth \$400,000,000 was imported from foreign countries. It seems to me that if our farmers received the attention, the care and the consideration which they deserve, they could supply a part of these \$400,000,000 worth of imports. However, we must not delude ourselves in regard to the possibility of supplying the whole domestic market. It is obvious that agriculture in the east and elsewhere must be placed on a competitive basis and properly directed.

Therefore, I am very happy to find that at long last the agricultural problems of eastern Canada—inasmuch as the work of the committee will bear on this aspect of the problems—will be given attention by the Government of Canada. It must be realized by all that agriculture like any other activity must depend on research, a study of the markets and education.

(Text):

Hon. Senators: Hear, hear.

Hon. Sydney J. Smith: Honourable senators,—

Hon. Senators: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. Smith:—it is a pleasant duty and a great honour for me to second the motion to adopt the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne. I must admit that when I received the invitation to do so I was nearly overcome with surprise and joy. There was a considerable mixture of fear there too—fear that I would not do credit to the high office to which I had been appointed until I had become acquainted with the atmosphere and surroundings of this place.

However, I am not a total stranger to some honourable senators, and that brings me a lot of comfort. I am very glad to find myself again associated with Senator Nancy Hodges, who was Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia when I had the honour of representing the provincial riding of Kam-