

In addition to the briefs that will be discussed under these four general headings, there were other briefs submitted which dealt with other related aspects of the terms of reference. These will assist materially in the completion of the full report of the Committee which is proposed for the next session.

I. AGRICULTURAL LAND USE IMPROVEMENT

(a) *Soil Erosion Control*

One of the submissions discussed for the Committee the importance of controlling erosion of our soils as a means of maintaining the productivity of our land resource. In this brief differences between Eastern and Western Canada were pointed out. In Eastern Canada most of the soil erosion that occurs is caused by water, due to the relatively higher rainfalls in the eastern part of the country and to susceptibility of some soils when not in the proper use to be eroded by water. In Western Canada water erosion is less of a problem due to smaller amounts of precipitation, but the lands of the Prairie Provinces are subject more to wind erosion. The use to which the land is put was stressed as the means of controlling both wind and water erosion. In Eastern Canada more of the land is under forest growth or is seeded to forage. This materially assists the control of both wind and water erosion. In the Prairie region the higher proportion of the land in grain crops and especially in summerfallow result in the land being more susceptible to wind erosion.

Attention was also drawn to the relation of soil type to erosion. Generally, the heavier soils—the clay, the silts, are more subject to water erosion. The opposite is true of wind erosion. The fine sandy soils are mostly affected by winds.

A second brief brought to the the attention of the Committee the importance of considering differences in soils when determining the most desirable use of our agricultural lands. It was reported that 250 million acres of land have been covered in varying detail by soil surveys which includes about 85 to 90 per cent of our improved farm land in Canada. On the basis of this work, it was estimated that 5 per cent of the land presently being farmed should be removed from agriculture and put into forest and permanent grazing use. Ten per cent of our improved land, the Committee were told, could be considered excellent agricultural soils presenting few problems of management. The balance of 85 per cent of our improved agricultural land represent a wide range of productivity levels and a variety of land use problems. These lands are satisfactory if put to the uses for which they are most suited. Many of these soils may be viewed as having one preferred use. The use of particular soils must be viewed on both a regional and local basis in determining the most desirable use.

(b) *Reclamation and Development of Maritime Marshlands*

There are three main problems with regard to water which were considered by the Committee. These problems are the exclusion of water, the drainage of water and irrigation.

The work being carried out by the Maritime Marshlands Rehabilitation Administration was outlined for the Committee. This work exemplifies the first of the three problems. It was pointed out that of approximately 110,000 acres of marshland in the three maritime provinces, there are now about 80,000 acres protected from tidewater flooding. The administration is of a co-operative nature and the costs of its undertakings are borne by both senior levels of government. The extent of the work that has been performed is noted in that of the 80,000 acres now protected 11,000 acres was land that was seriously flooded by salt water prior to 1949. There are 123 projects involved ranging from 30 to 18,000 acres in size. These projects form parts of