

Gulf (Hon. Mr. Power). The work this committee has done is a fine example of what can be accomplished by Senate committees. As honourable senators well know, the committee has been so effective that some of its recommendations have been adopted by the Department of Agriculture, and also have been warmly approved by all provinces of Canada.

Just a few days ago in the other place the Minister of Agriculture, in presenting his report on the ARDA program, stated how well the report of the Special Committee on Land Use had been received by the provinces. He remarked that all ten provinces had signed agreements with the federal Government. The agreements contain forty different types of projects which are to be carried out in each of the provinces. It was also stated that \$50 million was the maximum amount which the federal Government had approved for this particular work. Three years, I believe, is the time provided in which to carry out certain pilot projects and also research.

I am sure that all honourable members feel that the work of this committee is well worth while and we are all satisfied that the committee should be continued for another session. Personally, I think it should be re-appointed now and probably should be continued for many sessions to come.

Many changes are taking place in farming operations in this country, as a result of which new problems arise; and a committee such as this can do an excellent job. To my mind its work is linked up not only with agriculture but with trade and commerce, and I can see it could be very well linked up with immigration, because the many millions of acres of empty land in Canada cannot be left idle too long. When we think of people starving in other countries we realize the land of the world must be made productive to feed the people.

So, honourable senators, I can see how a committee of this kind can do excellent work, not only at present but for years to come.

Hon. W. Ross Macdonald: Honourable senators, when this committee was re-appointed last session I was fearful that it might terminate with that session, and I expressed the wish that it would be a continuing committee.

For once, I am grateful to the Government—for continuing this committee throughout this session. I join the Leader of the Government in the hope that the committee will continue for some time to come because there is a great deal of work to be done with respect to the proper use of land.

The committee has wide powers; it is limited in no way by its terms of reference. Last year I made certain suggestions as to

what studies the committee could undertake, and I learned that it had given consideration to the various subjects I had mentioned.

I remember that when the committee was set up over seven years ago the then Prime Minister, Mr. St. Laurent, was very interested in its work. If I remember correctly, the late Senator Godbout was its first chairman.

Some Hon. Senators: Senator Power.

Hon. Mr. Macdonald (Brantford): I stand corrected on that, but I remember that Senator Godbout's name had been mentioned as the first chairman. He was an outstanding agriculturist but unfortunately his death intervened, and he never became chairman. The honourable senator from Gulf (Hon. Mr. Power) became the first chairman, and he was succeeded by the honourable senator from Lumsden (Hon. Mr. Pearson).

The membership of the committee has been largely the same throughout the last seven years. As is natural, there have been a few changes. This session there are only three new members. They are the honourable senator from Medicine Hat (Hon. Mr. Gershaw), and two honourable senators from the Maritimes, the senator from Madawaska-Restigouche (Hon. Mr. Fournier) and the senator from King's (Hon. Mr. Welch).

The committee is truly representative of the provinces right across the country. It has done excellent work in the past, and I am sure that it will continue to do so. Therefore, I am most happy to associate myself with the honourable the Leader of the Government in seconding the motion which he has moved.

Hon. Arthur M. Pearson: Honourable senators, during the last session of the Twenty-fourth Parliament the Special Committee of the Senate on Land Use held five meetings. Though the committee had arranged for many more witnesses to appear before it, quite a number of those witnesses found it difficult to make their arrangements for the later dates; and in the meantime Parliament was dissolved. Thus, we were unable to bring in our final report for last session. For that one reason it is felt this committee should be re-formed, and that it should bring in such a report.

Honourable senators will remember that among the recommendations made in the report placed before this honourable body in 1961 there was one in particular, that the committee should be reconvened each session. As the honourable Leader of the Opposition (Hon. Mr. Macdonald, Brantford) has just mentioned, it is felt the committee should be of a continuing nature because of the tremendous amount of work that can be done by it.