

most suitable for specific types of production, marketing organization, proximity to markets and in general, and a set-up which will enable the farmers to get everything they can out of their operations.

Louis Bromfield, to whom the honourable senator from Churchill (Hon. Mr. Crerar) has already referred, once said something like this: "There is no more important labour on earth than that of the farmer."

During the war years I had the responsibility of administering departmental operations in my own province, and I will never forget the spirit of devotion—of sacrifice, if you will—of the farm people there in those times. I would like to give you an illustration. I was asked one time to address a meeting being held in the dairy section of my province. Before the meeting took place I went to visit a certain farmer, but I found he was away from the farm doing some work in connection with the meeting. In the barn I found his father and mother milking some cows that belonged to a herd of pure bred registered Jerseys. The mother was a little old lady in her seventies and, calling her by name, I said, "It seems to me this is just too much for you to be doing." Well, I will never forget the look on her face when she replied, "Mr. Taylor, it is something I can do and I am only happy to be able to do it." That is the type of sacrifice people on the farms are still making.

Honourable senators, I must conclude my remarks, but it is pretty difficult for me to stop when I get going on a subject such as this. This subject is very important to me and I am happy that I have been selected as a member of the committee. I can assure you that in so far as the members of the committee are concerned, we will do our utmost to bring about some condition to improve the welfare of the farm people of Canada. To my mind that is of primary importance, for there is no more stabilizing influence in the world today than our rural population. The committee has a big job to do and, as I see it, it has taken on a tremendous responsibility. I believe that in the thoughts of farm people throughout Canada today there is, as a result of the setting up of this committee, a type of optimism that they have not had for many years. They know that the authorities are making a real attempt to do something for Canadian agriculture.

I welcome the remarks of the honourable Leader of the Opposition (Hon. Mr. Haig), who said he was quite satisfied with the establishment of the committee and that he was willing to give it his full support. I am sure every member of this august body has the same view. I want to emphasize that each of us on the committee has a great

responsibility and a difficult task ahead. We must put our best efforts into our work in order to bring about a report that will result in improving the welfare of the masses of people who are and who will become our rural population.

Hon. Arthur W. Roebuck: Honourable senators, I am sure I express the opinion of everyone here when I congratulate my new deskmate the honourable senator from Westmorland (Hon. Mr. Taylor) on the very impressive speech he has just made.

Hon. Senators: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. Roebuck: I know that we all welcome the honourable senator and look forward to many contributions from him in the years that lie ahead. He has already proved himself to be a valuable member of the Divorce Committee, of which I have the honour to be chairman. I am sure that as the years go by his experience, wisdom, fluency and sincerity will make their mark in this chamber.

One of my reasons for rising at this time was to pay this compliment to our new colleague. Another reason was to remark that the Leader of the Government (Hon. Mr. Macdonald) was guilty of a masterpiece of understatement when he told the house that this was an important resolution. It could not have been more important, for we are all land animals. We live from the land and by the land, and none of us can exist even five minutes without it. The use we make of land is essentially important to our progress and to our civilization.

I believe I have spent as much time as anyone in the Senate in considering the problems and philosophies of land tenure, land values, and so on. I do not mean to say, of course, that I am the only repository of such knowledge. For instance, the honourable Leader of the Opposition (Hon. Mr. Haig) and the honourable senator from Churchill (Hon. Mr. Crerar) have already expressed their sentiments in the matter.

The importance of land and its use simply cannot be overestimated. I hope that this committee will not limit the scope of its inquiry to even such important subjects as land conservation with respect to agricultural areas of our country. As the honourable senator from Churchill has already pointed out, this resolution asks for a report on land use in Canada. I am not a member of the committee and I suppose this is largely because I am from an urban locality rather than an agricultural one. If that is the reason, it is a mistake—

Hon. Mr. Macdonald: I am sure the Leader of the Opposition (Hon. Mr. Haig) will agree