

reflected in this submission. We have also obtained statistical information from the census, from the Dominion Bureau of Statistics and from reports of the Department of Labour.¹ These sources of information, and the experience of the C.F.A. with agricultural problems over a period of 25 years, form the basis for this statement.

Lack of employment for Canadian workers is a situation which adversely affects everyone. Conversely when employment is at a high level the whole structure of our national economy rises and farmers as well as those in other occupations are benefited.

It should be recognized, too, that there are mutual interests involved, and a similarity of circumstances and causes in many of the employment problems in our rural and urban societies. The degree of employment being experienced in the economy and a lack of an adequate rate of national economic growth is cause for very serious concern on two counts. The first is the impact on the persons unemployed. The second is the amount of economic waste which unemployment represents. The Canadian Federation of Agriculture will firmly support intensification of efforts, and of positive measures, to meet unemployment situations of every kind.

Farmers and their families have a very considerable stake in a healthy economy. It will be pointed out later in this statement that farming has experienced a sharp decline in its labour force over the past ten years. This decline has been accompanied by depressed income conditions in the industry. The economic attrition in the form of low incomes that has for most of the 1950's accompanied this decline in the number of farmers may perhaps be described as the counterpart of unemployment in the industrial field, especially of the kind usually referred to as "structural". There is no early end in sight to this process of attrition, unfortunately. One of the few mitigating circumstances during the past ten years has been the comparative buoyancy of the economy as a whole, which has kept domestic demand for food at a high level, and has created quite a good climate of opportunity outside of farming.

In the process of agricultural adjustment, the existence of alternative employment opportunity for farm people in the non-farm field is a matter of vital importance to farmers and their families. This is true not only of those who actually leave agriculture for other work, but of those remaining in agriculture who share in the benefits of a better-adjusted farm industry.

Because needs for sound policies facilitating adjustments in the labour force will be given a good deal of emphasis in this presentation, we would like to make our position very clear at the outset.

Adjustment needs in a developing industry with a declining labour force must be recognized and met, in the interests of all. Since manpower utilization is the subject of this enquiry it is the adjustment aspects of the problem of farm policy that will receive attention. This does not mean that we view with any degree of satisfaction the decline in the numbers of farmers—on the contrary—yet it is the opinion of the Federation that it would be irresponsible to ignore the nature of the basic economic changes taking place in agriculture, and insofar as such change seems necessary within the framework of our accepted national goals, beliefs and institutions, the best thing to do is to advocate policies which make the change less painful and associate with it as many programs of constructive improvement as possible.

Specifically, the Canadian Federation of Agriculture accepts the goal of reasonable economic efficiency in agriculture as elsewhere in the economy. But it also believes in the economic and social soundness and value of the family farm pattern of agricultural work and ownership. Here we cannot do

¹ The report "Trends in the Agricultural Labour Force of Canada 1921 to 1959" prepared by the economics and research branch of the Department of Labour has been a particularly valuable source of information.