

Ottawa? There is nothing in the motion to indicate whether it has the right to travel over the country or not.

Hon. Mr. Macdonald: That is a question which the committee itself will have to decide.

Hon. Mr. Davies: If the committee is to spend money in travel, should not the motion provide authorization for it?

Hon. Mr. Macdonald: It is my recollection that when the committee which was set up to inquire into the traffic in narcotic drugs in Canada decided to sit in a centre other than Ottawa, it came to the Senate and asked for a grant to enable it to pay the expense of holding sittings elsewhere. I therefore return to my first statement, that in the first instance it is a matter which the committee itself must decide; and then, I believe, under our practice the committee would have to come to the Senate for final authority.

Hon. Austin C. Taylor: Honourable senators, it is pretty difficult for me to remain seated when a matter relating to agriculture is being discussed. Before I say anything about it, however, I should like to express to all honourable senators the happiness and the pleasure I feel in having become a member of this august and honourable body. I can assure you that I feel highly honoured in being associated with this group of men and women. Also may I mention, since this is my first session, that I appreciate more than I can express the friendship which has been shown me by all honourable members of this body, from the oldest to the youngest. I can say without any question of doubt that everyone has tried to make me feel at home. I trust that these relationships will continue throughout the time of my sojourn here.

Turning to the subject of this resolution, I have been interested in agriculture all my life. I was born on a farm; I am still living on and operating a farm. I do not intend to go into detail or discuss at any length the various aspects of the work which will be before the committee, but I should like to make reference to one or two points which, to my mind, are of tremendous importance.

It is unfortunate that in some quarters the references by the Gordon Commission to agriculture have been misinterpreted or misunderstood. I have read over the report carefully, several times, and I think it contains many good things. It may be that all the conclusions arrived at by the committee on the facts presented to it are not shared by every member of this body, but it is self-evident that there is a problem, and a very

difficult one, in relation to the various phases of agriculture that are dealt with in the report.

I am not entirely in agreement with those who contend that there is not a need to move some farmers to new locations elsewhere. In 1949 I visited every province and spent some days in each of them, studying various types and methods of agricultural production; and in the following year I had the opportunity as a member of the Canadian delegation attending the International Federation of Agricultural Producers in Sweden, to study agriculture in other lands. I then came to the definite conclusion that, as far as my own province is concerned, something should be done in connection with certain areas, though probably few in number, which were opened up and settled in the early days and are situated near the tops of mountainous regions or consist of nothing but gravel from the top soil to 30 or 40 feet below. Over the years many farmers who had settled in surroundings of this kind have, in the course of evolution, transferred their energies elsewhere. After my return from the trips I have mentioned I advocated the transfer of farmers from submarginal areas to districts where the soil was reasonably easy to cultivate and locations were nearer the markets. As I have said, this process has been going on by evolution; and I do not believe that any committee or any one individual authority can do the job; it is essentially a joint operation between the farmers themselves, the municipalities, the provinces and the dominion.

Although undoubtedly in certain areas the necessity for such movements exists, the major problem facing agriculture today is the economic situation which affects all farmers. I happen to live in an agricultural district, and I know that most of the men and women today engaged in farming in my province are middle-aged or old. I know, too, that there are many vacant farms in New Brunswick, because their former operators were not able to make, by comparison with the rest of the population, a reasonable living.

Foremost among the questions to which study should be given is the education of our people in the organization of all farm groups into bodies which are going to do a job for themselves. For today, throughout Canada, farm people have made it clear that they want to undertake these things for themselves and that they do not expect governments to do everything for them. I think that is a sound attitude. But we must recognize that there are many problems in this connection: production, the selection of areas