

Senator GOLDING: What size of farms have you in mind?

Dr. BOOTH: Size has different meanings, many different connotations, senator. It is not very helpful to speak of size in terms of acreage or number of cattle. Quite frequently the breakdown used, is in terms of income. This was used by the census in 1951. Farms that had less than \$1,200 in 1951 comprise about 38 per cent of all farms.

Senator McDONALD (*Kings*): Is that gross?

Dr. BOOTH: Yes. That is the information supplied the census enumerator in 1951, and that would be gross income from the sale of farm products. That income was reported in different categories, and in the category below \$1,200 we find 38 per cent of the farms. A large proportion of these are farms that have a very considerable acreage. You might find several hundred acres in some farms that are not very productive. Many of them will be small undertakings used as residential places for people who are working elsewhere, many of them nearing retirement and not particularly interested in the larger operation. Many are young people just getting started in farming. A very large proportion of these farms are conducted by people who have a secondary interest in agriculture. They work in cities or towns, and use the farm as a place of residence, others work on the highway, or for various public service institutions. They are not in the true sense, commercial farms.

Senator BARBOUR: In arriving at the \$1,200 income would you take into consideration the use of the farm house, the vegetables they use on the farm, and the fuel they get from the farm? Would that be considered in the \$1,200?

Dr. BOOTH: That would not be considered in the census classification I spoke of. I would wish to check on that, however, but in the determination of farm income by the Economics Division we take into account the so-called perquisites, that is the products consumed and the use of the farm house, as part of the total income of agriculture. Farm income is computed on several different bases and for different purposes by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, by our own department and for the National Accounts and the results obtained depend on how you calculate it. But in our Economics Division calculations we take account of the perquisites; we get an estimate of the produce taken from the farm and the woodlot as well as the valuation of the farm dwelling.

Senator TAYLOR: Would it be true that in most farms it is the gross cash income and not the perquisites, such as Senator Barbour mentioned, that you take?

Dr. BOOTH: I am not quite sure that I get your point.

Senator TAYLOR: It is just cash income from the farm—and not what vegetables they use and the amount of wood they get off the farm. It is just what they receive in cash?

Dr. BOOTH: I think that is what is involved in the \$1,200,—just cash income.

The size of holding of a farm does not indicate anything precise. It is unfortunate that we speak generally in terms of acreage because a farm business might be quite large with a very small acreage and very small with a very big acreage, and therefore we use different measures in our studies. We use the man-work unit basis in determining size; we use capital structure as another basis of measuring the size of the farm. The point is that there is a very substantial number of these farms that are operating on a relatively inefficient basis.

As far as the Department of Agriculture is concerned, we would be very appreciative of anything that could be done to throw more light on the problems of these farms and their place in the national production scheme.

Senator BARBOUR: Is there not a fairly large percentage of people in every large city who have a very small income?