

Farm Indebtedness

Mr. HANBURY: Could the Prime Minister give it by provinces?

Mr. BENNETT: I am just about to do that:

	Fully owned (acres)	Partly owned and partly rented (acres)	Total (acreage owned)
Prince Edward Island.. . . .	1,108,258	43,128	1,151,386
Nova Scotia.. . . .	4,061,333	102,837	4,164,170
New Brunswick.. . . .	3,849,881	129,527	3,979,408
Quebec.. . . .	16,134,602	477,987	16,612,589
Ontario.. . . .	18,554,741	1,328,028	19,882,769
Manitoba.. . . .	9,272,776	1,644,350	10,917,126
Saskatchewan.. . . .	30,289,620	8,936,852	39,226,472
Alberta.. . . .	21,423,004	5,497,499	26,920,603
British Columbia.. . . .	2,489,933	339,314	2,829,247
	107,184,148	18,499,622	125,683,770

There is a further division of the rented and owned lands. I do not know whether or not the committee would like that information, but I take it that in part the rented lands in the western provinces are those lands that have been foreclosed, and on which the former owner is a tenant. That is so in part, but not wholly, because those who come from western Canada realize that there are quite substantial quantities of land held by tenants on share payments, apart altogether from those areas in which the mortgages have been foreclosed and the farms taken over by the mortgagee and rented to the original mortgagor, sometimes under an agreement for sale or sometimes under an ordinary lease that provides that he may have the option of purchase with crop payments. If the committee is interested I will give the figures which we have had prepared as from the census. The total acreage of farm lands, according to the census classification, was 163,254,959 acres. The total acreage owned was 125,683,770 acres, and the total acreage rented was 37,571,189 acres. That is divided up into the farm areas, and then subdivided into the owned and rented totals. I have that by provinces, but presumably it is unnecessary to read it unless the committee desires to have that information.

Mr. HANBURY: I would suggest that if the Prime Minister has the information with regard to the mortgage indebtedness by provinces it would be very interesting.

Mr. BENNETT: These figures do not cover that.

Mr. SPENCER: Could we have those figures put on Hansard?

Mr. BENNETT: With the permission of the committee the table giving the subdivision by provinces may be placed on Hansard. The next table is the percentage

of farm land owned and rented in Canada, by provinces. That partly answers the question suggested by one of the hon. members the other day, in dealing with another matter. In Prince Edward Island 96·7 per cent of all the lands are owned and only 3·3 per cent are rented. In Nova Scotia 96·8 per cent of the farm lands designated as such in the census are owned and 3·2 per cent rented. In New Brunswick 95·9 per cent of lands designated as farm lands are owned and 4·1 per cent are rented. In Quebec 95·2 per cent of lands thus designated are owned and 4·8 per cent are rented. In Ontario 87 per cent of lands thus designated are owned and 13 per cent are rented. In Manitoba, of the farm lands discovered as such 72 $\frac{1}{10}$ per cent are owned, and 27 $\frac{9}{10}$ per cent rented. In Saskatchewan 70 $\frac{5}{10}$ per cent are owned, and 29 $\frac{5}{10}$ per cent rented. In Alberta 69 $\frac{1}{10}$ per cent are owned, and 30 $\frac{9}{10}$ per cent rented. In British Columbia 79 $\frac{2}{10}$ per cent are owned, and 20 $\frac{1}{10}$ per cent rented, giving an average in Canada of 77 per cent owned and 23 per cent rented.

The hon. member for Vancouver-Burrard (Mr. Hanbury) has raised the question of relating the mortgage debt on the owned land farms to the total farm acreage, and expressing the result in farm indebtedness per acre. Ontario is far the highest with the figure of \$8.75 per acre; Quebec is second with \$5.53; British Columbia third with \$4.29; Prince Edward Island fourth with \$4.09. The older and more intensive agriculture of these provinces is typified by economy in the use of land. The low figures for Nova Scotia and New Brunswick are largely attributable to the low absolute figures of farm indebtedness. There is a great deal of part time farming in these provinces, the farms in many fishing, lumbering and mining districts being regarded as homes rather than income earning estab-