

## APPENDIX (1)

December 13, 1963.

AN AUTOPSY OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY IN  
EASTERN CANADA

People who have travelled on different continents and are interested in agriculture, have difficulty to reconcile the plight of farmers in Eastern Canada with the fact that our country should lead all others in agricultural prosperity.

Government scientists have worked ceaselessly to improve the quality of our agricultural products and farming methods. Our Department of Agriculture and the Board of Grain Commissioners control efficiently the quality and weight of all types of grains and seeds and the health of our huge livestock and poultry population. Our transportation system, particularly since the opening of the seaway, has been streamlined and our freight rates are probably the lowest in any free country. The movement of grain is further facilitated by the construction and maintenance of large elevators at many transit points.

Geographically no country is in a better position than Canada to serve world markets from the East and West coasts and even from the North. We have the second highest living standard in the world which provides a good domestic market for all agricultural products. Our experienced, intelligent farmers, having at their disposal all the necessary equipment and buildings, should be able to maintain our poultry, livestock and dairy industries on a profitable basis. Government officials and private traders who handle our grain exports are highly qualified and dedicated men with long experience in the international grain trade. It is therefore only right to expect that agriculture throughout our country should prosper when based on the facilities and human qualities at hand.

For a few years after the end of the second world war the farm economy in Eastern Canada was still reasonably healthy. Farm indebtedness had not been too high and most farmers had at least a little capital to operate their mixed farms with a small profit.

We believe that the continuous decline in Eastern agriculture, particularly in the Province of Quebec and in the Maritimes, is partly due to a lack of a general cohesive agricultural government policy which would take into account the growth of our country, the changes which have taken place in agriculture during the last quarter century. Also, the lack of a deeper understanding of the process that a healthy agriculture is based on the proper utilisation of the soil, the efficient conversion of most of the products of the land into livestock, poultry, flour, vegetable oil, chemical products, sugar, canned food and many other goods, and the distribution of all these goods on a free competitive market. These objectives can only be achieved if free trade is restored, unnecessary restrictions abolished and production planned according to supply and demand.

Another cause of the decline in Eastern animal husbandry is due to the fact that government subsidies during the last few years, have not been distributed where they are needed most to improve Canadian agriculture as a whole and in this respect Eastern animal husbandry, particularly in the Province of Quebec, has not received enough attention.

There is also evidence that the decline of Eastern agriculture started shortly after the Government extended, in 1948, the Western wheat monopoly to oats and barley, the grains which are essential to the Eastern Canadian