

sources of income for people in the area; and to the extent that they remove land from agricultural cropping they will help to reduce surpluses which constitute a serious problem for agriculture.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT

"In addition to developing alternative land uses, the legislation also envisages the development of new income opportunities for people in rural areas. Local industry, recreation and technical training are among the ways and means that will be considered.

"The development of this phase of the programme envisages a large measure of local participation. It is proposed that provincial and federal authorities would provide guidance to local groups in assessing their own circumstances and in developing new sources of income. It is, of course, intended that all services and agencies of other departments of the Government of Canada that can contribute to this will be brought to bear in the total effort. It is also envisaged that the Federal Government, in co-operation with provincial governments, universities, educational institutions and individuals, will carry out programmes of research and investigation in the general field of rural development.

CONSERVATION OF WATER AND SOIL

"Finally, the legislation will authorize the Minister of Agriculture to enter into agreements with the provinces to carry out soil and water conservation projects for agricultural purposes. The importance of this is, I think, well understood by all who are familiar with the circumstances of Canadian agriculture.

ASSISTANCE NOT ELIMINATION

"I should like to make it clear that it is not the purpose of this legislation to reduce the number of farms. Those who feel that the small-farm problem can be resolved by uprooting people arbitrarily from their farms, do not, in my view, understand the deep attachment of rural people to their home surroundings. This legislation is designed, rather, to help by various means to improve the income and standard of living of the smaller and more marginal family farms and in that way to help to improve the over-all position of agriculture.

"I have in recent months discussed these broad proposals in general terms with provincial ministers of agriculture and with farm organizations and have found them quite sympathetic to the principles involved. Pending the introduction of the legislation to Parliament, however, I have not been able to discuss the proposals in detail. I would like to suggest that, following first reading of the bill, it be laid over so that I may have the opportunity of further discussions with the provinces and farm organizations before we proceed with subsequent consideration. Since

the legislation is based so largely on co-operative action with the provinces, I think it is desirable that they should have an opportunity to comment on it before we proceed to the final stages.

AN INVETERATE PROBLEM

"...As I said earlier, the problems that this bill is designed to come to grips with have been known for a long time. I personally heard them discussed over 30 years ago. I remember hearing one leading figure of my province say that some day some government would have the courage to tackle the problem of the marginal farmer. I am pleased that the agriculture ministers of the provinces, and the leaders of the farm organizations, have indicated their support for the principles of this legislation. I know that every Member from farm ridings will have knowledge of areas or groups within his district that will benefit by the type of help envisaged under this programme. I hope that during the discussion of the bill in its various stages that the ideas of the Members can be brought forward.

"I like to think that at long last the full resources of mind and energy of the best agricultural brains in Canada at all levels will be brought to bear on the problem of helping the farmer help himself, not only at the local level but right down to the individual farmer himself. Under this bill, the full scope and influence of the Agricultural Stabilization Act, the Farm Credit Act and the Crop Insurance Act can be utilized. I feel that these four great acts working in unison can become the comprehensive co-ordinated attack on the basic weaknesses of the agricultural economy."

* * * *

WOOL PRICE SUPPORT

A deficiency payment of 23 cents a pound will be paid on the 1960 wool clip, Mr. Alvin Hamilton, the Minister of Agriculture, announced recently. This compared with the deficiency payment of 21 cents a pound paid last year on the 1959 wool clip.

The deficiency payment is calculated as the difference between the stabilization price of 60 cents a pound, and the average market price a pound f.o.b. Toronto for the basic grades Western Range Choice half blood staple and Eastern Domestic quarter blood staple combined.

It is estimated that 1960 production of wool in Canada will be slightly higher than the 1959 wool clip of 6.3 million pounds.

The Minister stated that cheques to producers for deliveries of 20 pounds or more of eligible graded wool, which have been reported to the Agricultural Stabilization Board, will be issued by the Federal Treasury as soon as possible, probably within the next week or two