

cultivate an acre of land with berries and small fruits, and is now making more than he made on his farm.

Senator HAWKINS: With the butter-fat price today, it is apparent that the average farmer with 10 or 12 cows cannot make any money.

Senator TAYLOR (*Westmorland*): What are the farmers doing for seed-drills?

Dr. RIPLEY: The situation is the farmers are still using their old drills; but it may become difficult to purchase new ones. We figure that to equip a farm in eastern Canada requires an outlay of \$28,000, which is too much overhead for a 100-acre farm to carry. They have bought their hay-balers, their forage crop harvesters, and now they are marking time and doing with what they have. I presume there is a supply of seed-drills, but I understand the manufacturers are reluctant to make any more, and that binders can only be imported from England.

Senator MACDONALD: I happen to live a few miles further east than Senator Taylor. Let me give my experience, and I have farmed for quite a number of years.

Back in the twenties a farmer was fairly well equipped at a total cost of probably \$600; that is using horses. We had at that time two and three-horse teams, and my brother and I farmed about 200 acres. At that time I went on my own—I had a son growing up—and we switched over to tractors.

About four years ago in the fall of the year my machinery was still out and I stood in the kitchen doorway and began to reckon up what it had all cost me. My son, incidentally, had bought the baler. I kicked against that because I thought we were getting top-heavy with machinery as it was. Anyway, I reckoned up that the two tractors and everything else that went with it cost me \$8,000 cash, and that did not include the baler.

Senator HAWKINS: How much?

Senator MACDONALD (*Queens*): \$8,000. I could go back further and recall when probably \$300 would equip a farmer with all the farm machinery he needed. In those days a binder probably cost \$120 or \$125. It was all gear for horses. I agree that back in the east they are getting top-heavy with machinery. It is a critical situation. The total farm debt on Prince Edward Island is quite staggering because the farmers have got into mechanization, and so forth. Just what can be done about it, we do not know. Our young men are moving off the farm and, after all, you can't blame them.

Senator McDONALD: It is a great problem. On many of the small farms they cannot keep the expensive equipment operating enough days in the year to justify the cost.

Dr. NIELSEN: It is not the fault of the machinery; another problem has been created.

Senator McDONALD: The production is not high enough.

Senator TAYLOR (*Westmorland*): Nowadays you cannot get men to pitch hay and do the things they were willing to do years ago.

Dr. NIELSEN: It is not a problem of machinery, it is something else.

Senator McGRAND: Personally I cannot see where the larger units are going to solve the problem in the Maritimes. In central Canada there is a lot of industry and so there is opportunity for young men to leave the farms and get jobs in industrial life in these cities. This situation is entirely different from that which exists in the Maritimes where we have little industry. When young people leave the farms in the Maritimes they can create a social problem because they are not able to find jobs in industry, unless they leave that region of the country. It does not seem to me that larger units are going to supply the economic answer with respect to the Maritime provinces.