

Mr. KALBFLEISH: I think you would have to take it right across the board. This makes a very general question. Possibly the economics people might try to evaluate this point. But all we can say from a technical point of view is whether or not a machine will do twice as much work in the field as it did on some specific date further back. If you wish to pick some specific time, that is the type of thing we can do. But whether, by using it twice as much, it would operate twice as fast in the field, becomes a more difficult thing, and I think considerable work would have to be done to handle questions of this nature.

Mr. PASCOE: Did I understand the witness to say that on an average farm the machinery is only used for about ten days a year? Does he have some kind of report which would help us, and which would indicate the figures as to the average use?

Mr. KALBFLEISCH: We have one bulletin on the subject, but it does not give the trend now. It would have to be brought up to date again, having regard to current wage rates, and so on.

Mr. PASCOE: I think it would assist this committee.

Mr. KALBFLEISCH: We put out a publication in 1953, which indicated for eastern Canada what we could get—through circulation among the farmers—with respect to crop acreage, and as to what the machines would do on the average. For instance, if a farmer had a machine, and if he had only 100 acres, this might be divided so that there would be crop rotation, and when he came to cut hay, it would only be in a limited area. So by and large most of the machines would operate only the ten days that you speak of.

But this raises a problem in relation to what the plant would do if you worked an eight hour day in an area, taking off Sundays and holidays, or having relation to a production plant in which you might expect 2,000 hours.

Here we have the case where a lot of machines are only used for ten days out of the year. But when you get to larger farms, such as in the western area, where the use is a little greater than it is in the eastern area where the crop is not as great and where the farm machinery is not used as extensively, it is another question.

Mr. PASCOE: Do you not think that a further question should be added to the questionnaire, along these lines: how much time do you use your machines?

The CHAIRMAN: I think that is a very good question.

Mr. HENDERSON: I have noticed around here that there are many moonlight farmers; they work in the city, for the municipality, or for the government, and they do their farm work after supper.

I saw a place where there must have been 20 hay fields, with some hay cut; but they were going to work that night on it. So it is a different situation altogether from what we have in the west.

I received a letter yesterday morning from my boy, and he said that he starts at 4:45 a.m. and he works through until 8 o'clock, when another man takes over from him and works until midnight. So that machine is really getting some work, whereas in the case of the moonlight farmers, they do not even work the oil through it.

Mr. KALBFLEISH: I think this is an important factor: that machines are not used anything near to capacity. It makes no difference to a tractor. It will go ahead and keep on working, save for the time out to put oil into it and to do some repairs which may be needed; that tractor will just keep on working. So I doubt that we have an average use of tractors across Canada of over 500 hours a year. As far as the tractor is concerned, it could operate much longer than it is used, even if we say that it is used for only one-half the time, because of the winter season. I think this is a big factor in the cost of farm machinery.