

farming is impossible. It would seem then that 40 per cent, or 8 million acres, of the land presently used for agriculture in Ontario could be wisely turned to alternative uses.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON LAND USE

"The situation indicated by the figures I have given is not new in Canada. It goes back many years. The special committee of the Senate on land use in Canada studied the question of marginal and sub-marginal land last session. Their recommendations...are well worth recording:

"Whereas there is a need of elimination of problem areas in Canada where farm businesses are small, productivity low, and incomes inadequate for family requirements:

The Committee recommends,

(1) (a) That further research be undertaken to define more clearly the nature of the problem in low-income areas and to pinpoint their location.

" (b) That a federal-provincial rural development programme be instituted to deal with areas of greatest need.

(2) That in implementing such a programme the provincial governments participate on a co-operative basis; such co-operation to include the principle that both provincial and local authorities assume major responsibility for the identification of problems and needs of local areas and the initiation, planning and development of appropriate action programmes.

(3) That the federal and provincial governments co-operate in assisting any such programme with financial and technical assistance, said financial assistance to be provided through a cost-sharing agreement.

(4) That the federal and provincial governments provide for a larger farm-management service and expansion of educational facilities, with particular emphasis on leadership to ensure a prompt dissemination of the research results to those farmers who will be most benefited therefrom.

(5) That there should be some form of co-ordination of Federal Departments of Agriculture, Northern Affairs and National Resources, Health and Welfare, Labour, Trade and Commerce, Fisheries, Forestry, and Citizenship and Immigration with regard to activities under a rural development programme.

"This resolution authorizes the Government to enter into agreements with provincial governments or agencies thereof for the undertaking jointly of three types of operations:

(1) Projects for the alternative uses of land that are presently classified as marginal or of low productivity.

(2) Projects for the development of income and employment opportunities for rural agricultural areas.

(3) Projects for the development and conservation of the water and soil resources of Canada.

CO-OPERATION ESSENTIAL

"In each of these types of projects there should be careful research by either or both the federal and provincial governments. There must be co-operation not only between the senior governments but also between the senior governments and the local people. One of the key points will be the widest possible participation not only by farmers but by every group in our rural communities. In sum total, agricultural rehabilitation and development must be a co-operative enterprise of governments, groups and individuals. This would also include the churches....

"The sixth point of our National Agricultural Programme deals with conservation... Plans are now being completed for the holding of a 'Resources for Tomorrow' Conference in the city of Montreal in October of 1961. It may well be asked at this time what is the relation between this resolution and our general policies and plans on conservation. Actually there is a very close connection. There was a meeting of federal and provincial ministers, who make up the policy sub-committee of the national steering committee of this conference...At that time I explained to the provincial ministers that everything envisaged under this bill would be in harmony with the proposed purposes of the 'Resources for Tomorrow' Conference. It is my judgment that the 'Resources for Tomorrow' Conference may expand the terms of reference that we have in mind in this bill, but I seriously doubt that it will suggest any diminution of its purposes.

"Having said these things about the background and purposes of the bill, I should like to go on and outline in general terms how it would operate.

"Broadly, the intent would be to assess, with the provinces, the agricultural areas which are in need of rehabilitation and to determine the type of assistance which would be most appropriate to achieve that end.

ALTERNATIVE LAND USE

"Certainly, the development of alternative economic uses for marginal agricultural land has a large part in the total programme. I need mention only two instances of this. One is the encouragement of farm woodlots, of free farming, of county forests, of reversion into Crown Lands, and so on, in Eastern Canada. The second is the conversion of marginal cropping land in Western Canada to grass by means of the community-pasture technique. These are some examples of alternative economic uses for land. Others deal with urban expansion, recreation, road building, airport construction, etc.

"Steps of this nature serve three purposes. They provide for better utilization of marginal agricultural lands; they provide new