

*Supply—Agriculture*

Products Co-operative Marketing Act, and that is what they have done. They are using that act to finance their operations.

The member for Charlevoix and the member for Bellechasse both brought up the question of pulpwood. I regret very much the situation in which the farmers have found themselves with regard to the prices they receive for pulpwood. There is no doubt that the situation has been very unfair and wrong. I trust that the combines investigation which showed that there had been a combine on the part of some of the paper companies to buy this pulpwood at much lower prices than should have been paid for it will have the effect of improving materially the prices that the farmers will get and that there will be no more combining in order to hold prices down.

In addition, the pulpwood producers are forming a co-operative in the province of Quebec. In fact, I think it has already been formed. I believe that they will be able to bargain much more effectively through that agency and improve prices for pulpwood. The putting of pulpwood under price support is not a very practical proposition. To begin with, if you did put it under price support you would in effect be giving a subsidy to the big paper companies that do not need it. That would be the situation if you paid a straight subsidy or deficiency payment and if you attempted to buy it it would be a hopeless proposition. The government could not possibly be buying five cords of pulpwood here and three cords somewhere else all over the eastern part of Canada. We would have no way to bring it to a central location and no way of looking after it. It is just not a practical proposition to attempt to do that. That is why we have not been able to go ahead with a support price for pulpwood.

I might say that so far as this co-operative is concerned we are quite willing to make available to it the resources of the Agricultural Products Co-operative Marketing Act in order to assist in financing its operations.

I have made quite a number of notes on the various members' speeches but I believe that, in most cases, I have said something which would cover all the points. I do not want to take up too much of the time of the committee.

The hon. member for Maisonneuve-Rosemont was painting a terrible picture of the misery of the farmers which I think I have effectively dispelled as a myth, so far as a lot of the farmers are concerned. In connection with that, I should like to say that in the 1951 census, I think it was, the figures showed about 38 per cent of our farmers in Canada had a cash income of less than \$1,200. The farm survey which the dominion bureau of

statistics has just finished in western Canada, and has practically finished in other parts of Canada, will, we hope, give us accurate figures on the situation in regard to the income of farmers on the basis of the different groups and territorial locations. We will then have accurate information with which to work to put into effect a rural redevelopment or rural assistance scheme.

The point I want to make is that if you take out this 38 per cent, if that is still the figure as it was in 1951, and then you take the income of the remaining farmers, that is the farmers who have farms of sufficient size to be economic units, you will find a very different picture than the one you get by taking the total number of farmers in the census return and the total income and dividing one into the other. In other words, all the statistics relating to the average income of farmers are badly distorted because of the fact 38 per cent of these farmers had such a low cash income.

The hon. member for Jasper-Edson made particular reference to the research program and the necessity for research. We fully appreciate this fact and that is one of the reasons for the completion of the reorganization in the department, to enable us to streamline to some extent the research facilities and thus do a better job. I should like to voice my appreciation of the work that the hon. member for Jasper-Edson has done, and the interest he has taken in John's disease. It was, to a very large extent, due to his efforts and the information he brought to my attention, that we put a John's disease eradication program into effect on much the same basis as the tuberculosis and brucellosis programs. I say that without doubt the hon. member for Jasper-Edson has performed a very great service to agriculture in this regard by insisting that a John's disease eradication program be put into effect.

I believe these are the chief points I have to make with regard to what has been said by hon. members opposite. There is one other thing about which I should like to say something before I sit down, Mr. Chairman, and that is the misconception which appears to exist with regard to what deficiency payments are and particularly as they relate to the new hog program which I announced a short time ago. I do not know whether or not the hon. member for Assiniboia correctly understood how these deficiency payments work. At page 2133 of *Hansard* for March 23, 1959, just after I had announced that as soon as we could get the machinery devised we would support hog prices by a system of