

land and the water—and the virgin forests and the grasses thereon—are resources belonging to the nation. The users are merely custodians. From the time man commences to use these resources for his own betterment and that of mankind, he disturbs the ecological balance of nature and then arises problems of soil erosion, fertility maintenance, flooding and decreased water supplies, and a whole host of others related to land and water use. In too many cases there is a delay in the application of corrective measures until the land becomes noticeably less productive. Such occur even in the better farming areas. It is in the interests of everyone for the state to guide and direct the users of our land into husbandry practices which guard its productive capacity.

Already the committee's attention has been directed to a number of problem areas in land use by representatives of provincial and national organizations who have given evidence. A few of these, common to all provinces, are listed here:

(1) Areas where on account of an unproductive soil, lack of markets, absence of non-farm employment, it is impossible to make a living, nor even maintain an acceptable one, without continual assistance from outside sources. Such create what might be described as rural slums. The remedy may be to assist the occupants to locate elsewhere and the land used in forestry or grazing.

(2) Areas where prevail small inefficient farms for which there is a reasonable chance of aiding their occupants to increase their income by some form of outside assistance not presently available to them through existing institutions, and thus help them to raise their level of living.

(3) Areas of soil erosion and depletion of fertility vary according to the lay of the land and cultural practices. Even in more successful farming areas are found problems in soil erosion and the depletion of fertility. While the direct responsibility for solving these problems is that of the farmer, his circumstances may be such that he cannot adapt effective practices and it may be desirable for the state to assist him to do so.

(4) Problems in water resources and control are also problems in land use. Drainage may be required to increase productivity, diking to reduce hazards from flooding, or, on the other hand, of structures to impound water to raise water tables, or for storing water to irrigate.

Then he goes on to recommend in this memorandum:

It would seem that the committee's activity should be directed along the following lines. Study achievements of significance in a number of systematic programs designed to bring about better land and water use.

(1) Development of soil improvement associations by farmers themselves.

(2) Agency programs in restoring tree cover to non-arable lands.

In this connection may I say to honourable senators, particularly to members of the Committee, that the Canadian International Paper Company have undertaken over the last few years a very wide study in tree planting. They have in fact an establishment not far from here, at a place called Harrington, in the province of Quebec, where they have been carrying on experiments in tree planting and in reforestation which are extremely valuable. The president of this company has been asking members of the Committee to visit this establishment at the earliest possible date. Up to the present

it has been found impossible to make the necessary arrangements, but I would suggest to the Committee which is now being constituted that they should take advantage of this opportunity to have an insight into methods which might be used to bring about reforestation of large areas of our country.

(3) Agency programs in re-grassing of poor lands.

(4) Work of River Valley Authorities of Ontario on flood control.

(5) Work of special committee appointed by Ontario Government on soil conservation.

(6) Work of Maritimes Marsh Reclamation.

(7) Certain phases of the work of the P.F.R.A. in western Canada.

I would almost suggest that this work of the P.F.R.A. in western Canada be given priority because I suspect, from having occasionally read some of the speeches and literature of the recent election campaign, that this is apt to become involved in politics in a very short time and it would perhaps be of some use to the community and to Canada at large if a non-partisan study were made as soon as possible.

(8) Work of Alberta Department of Agriculture Conservation and Land Utilization.

(9) Work of Saskatchewan District Land Utilization Committees.

It would appear advisable that at least one achievement in a land-and-water-use project from each province be studied. Then he goes on to make some suggestions, which perhaps I might pass on to honourable senators at this moment. They are that the committee, having studied the larger aspects of this question of land use, do now devote itself to the individual and specific elements that enter into it. To that end it would appear the committee, in order to do its work more efficiently, has reached the stage where it should avail itself of the services provided for it in the order of reference: technical and clerical personnel and possibly a secretary and counsel; and that the committee proceed to its work by means of subdividing into smaller committees which would have the right to travel and visit various projects which are now actually in operation—as, for instance, on the marshlands of the Minas Basin, in the Palliser Triangle, and in certain parts of Ontario, such as the Trent Valley, by the water authorities of that province. I think there are 13 or 14 projects of this kind. These subcommittees, having made a study and being then in a position to recommend whether or not that kind of work should be carried on more generally throughout the country, would in due course report to the main committee, which in turn would make a report to this house, and presumably that report would receive the consideration of the Government of the day.

That is why I say we have in our work reached a phase where we must come down