

Q. What is the rate there?—A. We have made very few loans within the last two years; our rate for the last two years has been 7 per cent. Two years ago we put through an Ontario farm loan at 6½ per cent.

The CHAIRMAN: It is one o'clock, gentlemen, and we will have to adjourn and have Mr. Bowman come back this afternoon. I think we had better adjourn now until four o'clock this afternoon.

The Committee adjourned until 4 o'clock p.m.

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*Afternoon Session*

4 p.m.

The Special Committee appointed to inquire into Agricultural conditions throughout Canada resumed at 4 p.m., Mr. McMaster, the Chairman, presiding.

C. M. BOWMAN recalled.

The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Bowman, will you resume? You have not forgotten where you left off?

WITNESS: No, I think I was trying to present the viewpoint to the Committee this morning that, to a large extent, the present serious financial difficulties of so many western farmers were due to their disregard during the last five years of sound economics and sound farming. I want to emphasize that statement by saying that in the judgment of myself and the executive officers of the Mutual Life Insurance Company, who have made investigations it would not be an overstatement to say that 75 per cent in the main of the present financial difficulties of the western farmer, as they exist to-day, is due to that fact. And it is because of that fact that we are so optimistic regarding the future, because we think that that is a matter which can be remedied by the farmer himself. Just as a concrete case, to bear out the force of this statement which I have just made, I desire to call the attention of the Committee to what has occurred in a section of the Province in Alberta, the Hanna district, a district in which the loaning experience of the Mutual Life has not been at all satisfactory. We have a few loans there, and of recent years, we have had very little, if any, interest payments on the loans we have had there. I think that that fact is largely due to the method in which our borrowers carried on their farming operations. In connection with that, I desire to present to this Committee some very interesting facts as to what has been accomplished in that district by a farmer who has been there for a number of years, who has farmed the same land for the past eleven years, and who during that entire period has never had a crop failure, entirely due to the manner in which he carried on his farming operations.

*By Mr. Elliott:*

Q. Just how do you arrive at that conclusion?—A. What conclusion?

Q. That the position of the western farmer is due largely to poor farming and extravagant methods?—A. By reason of personal investigations which we have made through our organization.

Q. Were these investigations made by an agriculturalist, or by some one sent out from your organization?—A. From our loaning organization, which exists in the western provinces, and through our own investigations, personal

[Mr. Charles M. Bowman.]