

policy. The Department of Agriculture in some areas works closely with this department. The announcement of the dairy policy originally had a most shattering effect, particularly on the farmers in the north Okanagan area. Though policy may be changed, it takes the farmers a long time to recover from the effects of such an announcement, which can easily alter or undermine a farmer's credit base. Though the department might rectify the error of its policy, the effects of that policy cannot be rectified so quickly. The effects may last for a long time and the loss of morale in the farm population can be serious. As ARDA projects currently under way are completed I hope that other projects will be developed, in order to paint a brighter economic picture for the province.

I was interested in the remarks of the hon. member for Qu'Appelle. He spoke of the need to shift the emphasis in agriculture; that the concept of the smaller, extremely efficient farm operation ought to replace the present rush to the constantly expanding farm operation. This sentiment is exactly reflected in the bulletin that was given to me during the week end. It is from the Deep Creek Farmers Institute, which is close to home so far as I am concerned. The bulletin which I shall now read, does not quarrel with the policies of some years ago:

—while the farm was a self-supporting and sustaining unit, but with the advent of one crop farms, machinery, and the multitude of services necessary, fertilizers for farms without livestock, the loss of home abilities and the refusal of labour to give "a day's work for a day's pay", even when such labour deigns to come on to a farm, more and more farm wives and families are working machinery to harvest crops... The solution is not bigger farms and more expensive and larger equipment. It is smaller units that one man can handle with a large enough return on produce to ensure a good living.

If farm machinery becomes much larger the rural roads in the mountainous areas of British Columbia will need to be widened. Increasingly the farm is becoming a larger operation. The important consideration for a farmer, as the bulletin says, is for him to organize himself in such a way that he can obtain a fair return from his produce. The government can help the farmer in this area of need, and through the ARDA program the government is providing the kind of assistance that it can best provide.

We await with interest some of the future developments within this department. Those will not be as popular as the rebuilding of our irrigation system, yet they will be necessary. Presently, rural development work is

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done in parts of Canada that are far from British Columbia.

• (4:50 p.m.)

I think it should be brought to the minister's attention that there are areas of British Columbia where the population is engaged in marginal operations and where there is a great need for assistance of the kind which is being designed and prepared in other parts of the country. I trust that when these plans and policies have been brought to fruition and when the department has learned a great deal about rural development, some of this knowledge will eventually be used for the benefit of the western provinces.

**Mr. Fleming:** My comments in connection with the estimates of the department of forestry will not be extensive; rather, I see that the time is getting close to five o'clock. I should like to thank the minister for his kindly reference to his predecessors. He was good enough to refer to us all in complimentary terms, so I must congratulate him on his good judgment and thank him for his kind remarks.

I agree that in the committee we dealt with the forestry estimates in some detail; generally speaking, I think we covered the subject fairly well. However, there are one or two matters which I should like to bring to the minister's attention—points which were difficult to bring out during the committee hearings, and which perhaps were scarcely suitable for discussion with the officials. Incidentally, I would feel myself derelict in my duties toward the department itself and the basis upon which it was established if I did not refer to the excellence of the personnel. I speak with personal knowledge of the staff, and I am sure there is no more dedicated group of public servants than is contained in the department of forestry.

My hon. friend from Qu'Appelle devoted most of his remarks to the subject of the ARDA program and to rural development. He is, I am sure, recognized as an authority in this field. I can agree with everything he has said, having some knowledge of the fact that an agreement has been made with the provinces of New Brunswick and Manitoba in connection with the ARDA program.

As far as the New Brunswick program is concerned, I think the minister will agree it is correct to say it is only in the first stages of its operation and that it will require very close attention. I have no doubt that it will receive close attention and I am equally sure