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NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMME

Moving, in the House of Commons on January 25, the adoption of a resolution whose main purpose was "the improvement of the economic position of those farmers whose land is presently classified as marginal or sub-marginal", the Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Alvin Hamilton, spoke as follows concerning the National Agricultural Programme, upon which the resolution in question directly bore:

"Generally speaking, the objective behind the National Agricultural Programme is to give agriculture a reasonably fair share of the national income. We believe that this parity of income should not be by charity, but by providing opportunities for the farmers to help themselves. The Prime Minister stated on August 30, 1958, that 'our conception of a national policy is based on the belief that the national welfare demands positive action to meet the basic causes of distress and maladjustment in particular industries and regions.'

STARK STATISTICS

"To point up the problem..., I should like to place some figures before the House that outline the problem in stark and dramatic terms. According to the economic classification of farms in the 1956 census, there were 21 per cent of Canadian farms that produced less than \$1,200 worth of produce annually. At that time, out of a total of 575,015 farms, there were 120,242 that fell into this category....

"In the report of the Royal Commission on Rural Life in Saskatchewan...the figures for 1950 are given and they indicate that in Saskatchewan 26 per cent of the total farms had a value of sales between \$0.00 and \$1,199.00 *per annum*. The same figures for all of Canada for 1950 reveal that 38 per cent of the total farms had a value of sales between \$0.00 and \$1,199,000 *per annum*.

"These Royal Commission figures appear to be worse than the 1956 DBS statistics, but that is because they are based on different criteria. In 1956 the criterion was estimated annual production that would include the value of the goods consumed on the farm. The 1950 figures are based on the value of goods sold, or in other words, the gross cash income.

"Recently, in a report dated September 1, 1960, by the Conservation Council of Ontario to the government of that province, I find this paragraph:

'It has been reported in an earlier section of this report that we have in Ontario 33,000,000 acres of land south of the Precambrian Shield. About 20,000,000 acres of this is being farmed but only 12,000,000 acres can be considered good land. We have, then a large acreage outside the 12,000,000 acres which could be used for non-agricultural purposes without damaging significantly our ability to produce good and cheap food in the future.'

"In their report, the Council recommend the vacation of marginal land where economic

(Over)

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

sources of income for people in the area; and to the extent that they remove land from agricultural cropping they will help to reduce surpluses which constitute a serious problem for agriculture.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT

"In addition to developing alternative land uses, the legislation also envisages the development of new income opportunities for people in rural areas. Local industry, recreation and technical training are among the ways and means that will be considered.

"The development of this phase of the programme envisages a large measure of local participation. It is proposed that provincial and federal authorities would provide guidance to local groups in assessing their own circumstances and in developing new sources of income. It is, of course, intended that all services and agencies of other departments of the Government of Canada that can contribute to this will be brought to bear in the total effort. It is also envisaged that the Federal Government, in co-operation with provincial governments, universities, educational institutions and individuals, will carry out programmes of research and investigation in the general field of rural development.

CONSERVATION OF WATER AND SOIL

"Finally, the legislation will authorize the Minister of Agriculture to enter into agreements with the provinces to carry out soil and water conservation projects for agricultural purposes. The importance of this is, I think, well understood by all who are familiar with the circumstances of Canadian agriculture.

ASSISTANCE NOT ELIMINATION

"I should like to make it clear that it is not the purpose of this legislation to reduce the number of farms. Those who feel that the small-farm problem can be resolved by uprooting people arbitrarily from their farms, do not, in my view, understand the deep attachment of rural people to their home surroundings. This legislation is designed, rather, to help by various means to improve the income and standard of living of the smaller and more marginal family farms and in that way to help to improve the over-all position of agriculture.

"I have in recent months discussed these broad proposals in general terms with provincial ministers of agriculture and with farm organizations and have found them quite sympathetic to the principles involved. Pending the introduction of the legislation to Parliament, however, I have not been able to discuss the proposals in detail. I would like to suggest that, following first reading of the bill, it be laid over so that I may have the opportunity of further discussions with the provinces and farm organizations before we proceed with subsequent consideration. Since

the legislation is based so largely on co-operative action with the provinces, I think it is desirable that they should have an opportunity to comment on it before we proceed to the final stages.

AN INVETERATE PROBLEM

"...As I said earlier, the problems that this bill is designed to come to grips with have been known for a long time. I personally heard them discussed over 30 years ago. I remember hearing one leading figure of my province say that some day some government would have the courage to tackle the problem of the marginal farmer. I am pleased that the agriculture ministers of the provinces, and the leaders of the farm organizations, have indicated their support for the principles of this legislation. I know that every Member from farm ridings will have knowledge of areas or groups within his district that will benefit by the type of help envisaged under this programme. I hope that during the discussion of the bill in its various stages that the ideas of the Members can be brought forward.

"I like to think that at long last the full resources of mind and energy of the best agricultural brains in Canada at all levels will be brought to bear on the problem of helping the farmer help himself, not only at the local level but right down to the individual farmer himself. Under this bill, the full scope and influence of the Agricultural Stabilization Act, the Farm Credit Act and the Crop Insurance Act can be utilized. I feel that these four great acts working in unison can become the comprehensive co-ordinated attack on the basic weaknesses of the agricultural economy."

* * * *

WOOL PRICE SUPPORT

A deficiency payment of 23 cents a pound will be paid on the 1960 wool clip, Mr. Alvin Hamilton, the Minister of Agriculture, announced recently. This compared with the deficiency payment of 21 cents a pound paid last year on the 1959 wool clip.

The deficiency payment is calculated as the difference between the stabilization price of 60 cents a pound, and the average market price a pound f.o.b. Toronto for the basic grades Western Range Choice half blood staple and Eastern Domestic quarter blood staple combined.

It is estimated that 1960 production of wool in Canada will be slightly higher than the 1959 wool clip of 6.3 million pounds.

The Minister stated that cheques to producers for deliveries of 20 pounds or more of eligible graded wool, which have been reported to the Agricultural Stabilization Board, will be issued by the Federal Treasury as soon as possible, probably within the next week or two

CANADIAN CENTENARY COUNCIL

The Canadian Centenary Council is a national non-governmental organization organized in May 1960 after two previous conferences involving representatives of more than 100 national organizations.

The Council was established to provide expression and involvement at a national level by voluntary non-governmental organizations in planning for the anniversary of Confederation in 1967. It developed from a belief that early and effective planning for the celebrations would provide for wide participation by Canadians in this unique undertaking.

Since it was established, the provisional executive committee has considered the suggestions of the May meeting in preparing a new draft of the constitution, undertaken the task of action as a nominating committee to prepare a slate of officers and members for the executive committee, and interviewed a possible executive director. At the same time they have prepared and submitted to the Prime Minister, a brief outlining purpose and function and expressing the Council's wish to co-operate with the Government body when it is set up.

Within the next four months a general meeting of the Council will be called to act on the recommendations of the provisional executive committee.

POLYMER IN EUROPE

Mr. Raymond O'Hurley, Minister of Defence Production, recently announced the formation of Polymer Corporation (SAF) for the purpose of construction and operating a speciality-rubber plant in Le Wantzenau near Strasbourg, France. Polymer Corporation (SAF) was organized by the Canadian Crown Company, Polymer Corporation Limited, of Sarnia, in partnership with the Banque de Paris et des Pays-Bas, to carry out the project with an estimated capital requirement of about \$12 million.

Details of the project were made public at a luncheon in Strasbourg given by Dr. E.R. Rowzee, president and managing director of Polymer Corporation Limited. Pierre Dupuy, Canadian Ambassador to France, was guest of honour at the luncheon, attended by French Government officials and business leaders of the cities of Le Wantzenau and Strasbourg.

OFFICERS OF NEW COMPANY

Dr. Rowzee will be chairman of the board of the French subsidiary company, and R.E. Hatch, vice-president of sales of Polymer Corporation, will be president, in addition to his present responsibilities. Other directors will be J.P. Fontaine, Banque de Paris et des Pays-Bas, F. Vernhes, Society Française Polysar, and S. Wilk, vice-president, finance, of Polymer Corporation Limited.

Mr. O'Hurley referred to the important position that Polymer Corporation occupies in

the world synthetic-rubber industry and its need to sustain growth in the years ahead. More capacity is needed to meet the strong demands for special types of rubbers, particularly as a result of the overall industrial growth in Europe, and especially within the European Common Market. The Strasbourg site is well suited to serving the European market advantageously; it is centrally located with respect to the rubber-consuming areas of the Common Market; it is on the Rhine, which will facilitate water transportation, and is on the route of the crude-oil pipeline from the Mediterranean to the refineries that will be located in the area. He pointed out that the output of the 10,000-ton plant in Strasbourg would augment and not replace Sarnia production, and would be marketed by Polymer Corporation Limited.

Mr. O'Hurley stated that the French speciality-rubber plant was an integral part of an expansion programme that would strengthen Polymer's position in the industry, and was expected to lead to further growth of Polymer at home and abroad.

ONTARIO FLOOD CONTROL PROJECT

An agreement providing federal financial assistance to the construction of a \$9,640,500 flood-control and water-conservation project in the Upper Thames River basin of western Ontario was signed near London recently by representatives of the Federal and Ontario Governments. Federal Resources Minister Walter Dinsdale and Ontario Minister J.P. Robarts signed the agreement in the board-room of the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority at the Fanshawe Dam, four miles from London.

Other Federal Cabinet Ministers attending the ceremony were Mr. G.E. Halpenny, Minister without Portfolio, and Mr. Waldo Monteith, Minister of National Health and Welfare. Federal M.P.'s and provincial M.P.P.'s from Western Ontario constituencies and members of the Conservation Authority were also present.

FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

Under the agreement, made possible through the Canada Water Conservation Assistance Act, the Federal Government will pay 37½ per cent of the estimated cost of the works or a maximum of \$3,615,200. The government of Ontario will pay an equal portion, leaving 25 per cent to be paid by the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority, a group of 31 municipalities.

Five dams and three channel-improvement schemes will be included in the project, which will be completed by 1970. The remedial works will control floods and raise river levels during the summer throughout the 1,325 square-mile area of the Upper Thames watershed.

The work will be spaced out over a ten-year period. Under the Canada Water Conservation Assistance Act, the Federal Government participated in large flood-control and water-con-

servation projects that would otherwise be beyond the means of provincial and municipal governments. Plans for the project were worked out by the Ontario government and the Conservation Authority and then submitted to the Federal Government for approval. The Upper Thames project is the first to be approved by the Federal Government under the provisions of this Act.

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DOMESTIC BUILDING IN 1960

Starts and completions of new dwelling units in Canada in the year 1960 were lower than in 1959, according to advance figures to be published in the December issue of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics publication "New Residential Construction". Fewer units were in various stages of construction at December 31, 1960, than a year earlier.

Starts in 1960 for all Canada dropped to 108,858 units from 141,345 in the preceding year, while completions fell to 123,757 units from 145,671. Units under construction at the year's end declined to 65,773 from 81,905 at the same time in 1959. Fourth-quarter starts fell to 32,061 units from 38,539 in the like 1959 period and completions to 35,136 units from 45,338.

Starts in centres of 5,000 population and over in 1960 decreased to 76,687 units from 105,991 in the preceding year, while completions dropped to 90,513 units from 108,059. December starts in these centres at 7,050 units were at about the same level as in the corresponding 1959 month, while completions declined to 7,098 units from 9,891. There were 44,975 units in various stages of construction in these centres at the end of the year as compared with 59,879 a year earlier.

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CANADIAN WHO DELEGATION

Canada's delegation to the Annual Assembly of the World Health Organization, which opened in New Delhi on February 7, is headed by Dr. G.D.W. Cameron, Deputy Minister of National Health. The party left by air for the Indian capital on January 28. WHO sessions are normally held at the international headquarters in Geneva, but a tradition has been developing according to which, every third or fourth year, the meetings are held in a member country. India's invitation was accepted for 1961.

The alternate head of the Canadian group is the Canadian High Commissioner to India, Mr. Chester A. Ronning, and Dr. Percy E. Moore, Director of Indian and Northern Health Services, is the third delegate. Alternate delegates are Dr. Jean Gregoire, Deputy Minister of Health for Quebec, and Dr. B.D.B. Layton, head of the International Health Section of

the Department of National Health and Welfare. G.L. Morris, of the High Commissioner's Office, is acting as adviser.

SPECIAL PROGRAMMES

Budgeting for nearly \$23 million in 1962, the WHO Assembly will consider special eradication programmes for malaria, smallpox and other major diseases, medical research, assistance to the Congo in the present emergency, the health aspects of ionizing radiation and other matters arising from the discussions of the United Nations and its specialized Agencies. Apart from the regular budget, there are special resources, such as a voluntary fund for malaria eradication, which bring the finances under direct WHO control to \$52 million.

Canada's contribution for 1962 will amount to \$620,000 plus an additional amount, yet to be determined, for the malaria fund. Taking advantage of their presence in the Far East, members of the delegation will pay brief visits to the health officials of a number of countries in South and Southeast Asia in connection with Canada's technical assistance programme in the health field under the Colombo Plan.

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STRIKES AND LOCKOUTS

The number of work stoppages dropped by 50 per cent in December over the previous month, and there was a substantial reduction in the number of workers involved and the number of man days lost, according to a preliminary summary of strikes and lockouts released on January 25 by Mr. Michael Starr, Minister of Labour.

There were 29 work stoppages in December involving 1,890 workers and a total duration of 30,280 man days. In November there were 58 stoppages with 5,491 workers involved and a total duration of 53,180 man days. In December 1959 there were 22 stoppages involving 3,836 workers and a total duration of 56,050 man days.

Seventeen of the December 1960 work stoppages were in industries in Ontario, ten in Quebec, one in Manitoba, and one in British Columbia. None was in an industry under federal jurisdiction.

Five of the December work stoppages involved 100 or more workers. Of these, two had been terminated by the end of the month.

A breakdown by industry of the month's stoppages shows 15 in manufacturing, six in trade, five in transportation, storage and communication and three in construction.

Based on the number of non-agricultural wage and salary workers in Canada the number of man days lost in December represented 0.03 per cent of the estimated working time compared with 0.05 per cent in November and 0.05 per cent in December 1959.

TRADE CONFERENCE IN WINNIPEG

Mr. George Hees, Minister of Trade and Commerce, has announced that he and senior officials of the Department of Trade and Commerce will participate with the Government of Manitoba in a trade promotion conference in Winnipeg on February 9 and 10.

Arrangements are being made by Mr. Gurney Evans, Minister of Industry and Commerce for Manitoba, who visited Ottawa during the Export Trade Promotion Conference in December. Following this conference, Mr. Evans asked if co-operative action could be taken by the Federal Government and the Province of Manitoba to make the results of the Conference more widely known in Manitoba, where there is a growing appreciation of the importance of exploring market opportunities in other lands for products of Manitoba.

Mr. Hees said that invitations were being extended by the Manitoba government to some 600 businessmen to meet with him and officials of the Department of Trade and Commerce and officials of the Provincial Government on February 10. In order that full advantage might be derived from the panel and other discussions, business organizations concerned were, he added, being requested to give consideration to their ability to enter the export field or to expand the value of their sales in other lands. The purpose of the meeting would be to discuss problems related

to export trade and to indicate the measure of guidance and technical assistance available from the Department of Trade and Commerce.

ENGINEERING BOOKLET

A new occupational monograph dealing with career opportunities in the various fields of engineering has just been released. "Careers in Engineering" is a well-illustrated 48-page booklet that covers the various aspects of the engineering profession, under the headings "History and Importance", "What Engineers Do", "Personal Qualities Needed for Success", "Preparation and Training", "Entry", "Earnings and Advancement", and "Outlook for Engineers". The booklet also outlines the scope of the major engineering fields--civil, electrical, mechanical, chemical, mining, metallurgical, and engineering physics.

This monograph, No. 20 in the "Canadian Occupations" series, prepared by the Economics and Research Branch, Department of Labour, covers a wide range of occupations and is designed to meet a demand for current information on Canadian occupations from young people faced with the need of choosing an occupation and preparing for it, parents, teachers and vocational guidance counsellors, workers wishing to change their occupations; employment service officers, personnel directors and union officials, and other quarters.