

**Mr. Butt** Going into one settlement you take 20 men, five of whom will break up a field in a short time; and in another place you take the same number of men and it will take much longer. I don't know the answer, but there are a lot of factors to be taken into consideration. This land settlement scheme originally was started, not by the government, but by private individuals who said, "If we would take ten families and you give us what they would normally receive in relief we will look after their rehabilitation." The government thought if private individuals could do it, so could they.

**Mr. Smallwood** What do you mean, referring to the demonstration farm, where you say that the Committee felt "that the farm is not properly constituted to attract farmers to it as an authority on their problems"?<sup>1</sup>

**Mr. Butt** The information we had was that the farmers were not going there as much as the government would like to see them.

**Mr. Smallwood** You go further than that, you say that the Committee did not feel that the farm was properly constituted.

**Mr. Butt** "Constituted to attract farmers".

**Mr. Smallwood** You must have had a reason for feeling that.

**Mr. Butt** Because farmers do not go there as they should.

**Mr. Smallwood** You don't necessarily infer that. In fact the farmers don't visit, therefore you infer that there must be something wrong with the farm.

**Mr. Butt** I think if you added something to the farm, maybe a radio program, or moving pictures—in other words, something was missing. That's all we intended to say, I drew attention to that in a short note in the introduction.

**Mr. Hillier** In connection with these homes and the land, I was wondering if these people had any legal claims to their homes. An outpost man especially is very keen on being able to claim ownership of the property on which he works. A few years ago the settlers at Midland were not satisfied because they had no guarantee that they had any legal right to their homes.

**Mr. Butt** I think that question was answered by Mr. McCarthy. He says the papers are going out

now. Up to this year they did not give them.

**Mr. Hillier** With regard to the lack of success of some of these land settlement schemes, might it not be that most of these men were chiefly fishermen, and fishermen do not take very kindly to farming? Sometimes they leave these settlements when other work offers.

**Mr. MacDonald** Mr. Smallwood asked a question regarding the farm being properly constituted. If he reads down a little further the reason was given by the Committee. It says: "To have it so constituted would undoubtedly call for more expenditure than is apparently being made." That is the reason, but may I ask, expenditure on what?

**Mr. Butt** We intended to convey that there was something wrong in the whole farm set-up, in that it did not attract the farmers as it should. There may be certain expenditures necessary to add something else to it for the special purpose of attracting farmers.

**Mr. Hollett** Why do you want to attract them?

**Mr. Butt** People go there to learn new ways of doing things, to see the results of some new kind of seed, how to use DDT, etc. On the professional work we did not comment, as far as we could find it was pretty good....

**Mr. Job** Just one question, it is at the end of the report: "The gross annual value at present of agriculture to the country is roughly estimated at \$12 million. It is probable that this value will relatively increase as people get back to their normal pursuits. The Committee hesitates to indicate what the increased revenue may be as any figure is not likely to be more than mere guesswork."<sup>2</sup> That \$12 million is made up at today's high figures, and you cannot expect the future to keep up to that \$12 million, let alone increase.

**Mr. Butt** That's why we put in "relatively". The actual dollars and cents value, as of today's price, may go down, I think it was \$6 million if I remember correctly, and it may go back to that. What we are trying to convey is that people who were away on bases or overseas, and other people from outside, are now going back to the land, so that in the near future it might go up a little beyond the 1945 figure, but it will relatively

<sup>1</sup>Volume II:171.

<sup>2</sup>Volume II:175.