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ABSTRACTS

Jean-Pierre WAMPACH: *Deux siècles de croissance agricole au Québec, 1760-1985*

The major stages of agricultural growth in Québec from 1760 to 1985 are identified and described from a drawing on the economy of agricultural development standpoint. A first stage of *extensive open growth* occurs from 1760 to 1890. From 1890 to 1940, a stage of *mixed open growth*, and from 1940 to the present, one of *intensive open growth* are observed. The steady rise in secular work productivity is broken only once, around 1890. A hypothetical pre-Malthusian stage through which agriculture might have passed during the 19th century is only partially supported by the facts. The effect of the economic, social, political and cultural environment on agricultural development in the 19th century is briefly analyzed.

Oleg STANK: *Crise et colonisation dans l'Est-du-Québec*

The simultaneous collapse of farm prices and forestry activity in the wake of the Great Depression upset the social and economic equilibrium of the productive organization of the Bas-Saint-Laurent region (eastern Québec). Unemployed members of the rural proletariat and revenue-poor farmers gone bankrupt fed migratory movement while struggling to eke out an existence from scarce resources. The colonization movement is the most noticeable aspect of this situation. The movement, while being spearheaded by the clergy, resisted being molded to the latter's social project. It was marked, moreover, by numerous conflicts over access to forest resources between most of the actors involved in the region. Thus, rather than spurring agrarian development in the territories wrested from forestry concessions - oftentimes after intense battles - colonization lands soon slipped back into a pattern of mixed activity characteristic of Québec peripheral regions, dependant on state aid. The extreme fragility of this means of occupying land become obvious in the 1950s, when the mixed system went to shreds.

Bruno JEAN: *La «ruralité» bas-laurentienne : développement agricole et sous-développement rural*

A sociographic portrait of the rural and agricultural evolution of the Bas-Saint-Laurent is made, using certain elements of information drawn from the agricultural censuses of Statistics Canada; the analysis is organized into six parts. The first deals with the formation of a dualistic regional agrarian economy, in which thriving farming activity was carried on in the low country and colonization for the mixed purposes of agriculture and forestry was carried on in the upper country. The breakup of the system of agricultural and forest exploitation and the spread of commercial agriculture led to a major agricultural contraction in the Bas-Saint-Laurent. The next part deals with

another aspect of this decline, the under-utilization of regional farmland. It is shown to be the result of the integration of the agrarian economy into the market-economy, which undermines mixed farming in favor of specialized farming. In the next two parts, an evaluation of the impact of these changes is attempted; farm modernization is concomitant with marginalization of the Bas-Saint-Laurent's share of Québec's agricultural economy, which raises the question of what future lies ahead for the former colonization zones that shaped this region's land and society. Finally, the perspective is widened to encompass these transformation's meaning for the whole of Québec's rural environment.

Ray D. BOLLMAN: *Revenu des familles agricoles, Canada et Québec, 1957-1986*

The level and distribution of farm family income is a major – perhaps the major – topic in agricultural policy analysis. Farm families have been obtaining a larger and larger share of their total net income from off-farm sources. This conclusion holds for all definitions of a farm family and is true for farms of all sizes. The increase in off-farm income has been equally split between off-farm wage earnings and off-farm investment income, and this equal increase of both off-farm sources applies to families on farms of all sizes. The increase in off-farm earnings is equally split between the operator and other family members (which in most cases is the spouse of the operator). Relative to the money income of non-farm taxfilers, that of «farmers» appears to be returning to the historical «farmer»/ non-farmer income gap. However, since 1972 and up to 1986, the money incomes of «farm» families, on average and regardless of the definition of farm family, have remained on par with the incomes of non-farm families. The proportion of farm families with incomes below the low-income cut-off has also been constant at the national level.

Gérard BOUCHARD: *Co-intégration et reproduction de la société rurale. Pour un modèle saguenayen de la marginalité*

This article stems from a study of the structures and the evolution of rural economy and society in the Saguenay region since the middle of the 19th century. To be more precise, the general aim of the project has been to bring out the social, economic and cultural aspects of a settlement process characterized by conditions of remoteness and marginality as well as by development problems. With regard to the rural economy between 1840 and 1930, a model is proposed to portray the agricultural situation of the Saguenay region and its relationship with the extra-regional economy, the forest industry in particular. The focus of this analysis consists then of the mixed economies typifying «marginal» societies. To sum up, it is proposed that any study of the agrarian economy and its relationships with extra-regional capitalism (or with economic activities termed «external») must take into account both the social dynamics peculiar to rural communities and the development of the urban and industrial economy.

Yolande COHEN: *Les Cercles de fermières: une contribution à la survie du monde rural?*

A little-known reality of rural life comes to light in this analysis of the economic involvement of the Cercles des fermières (rural home-owners club), from the time of the movement's inception in 1915 until 1945. The author shows to what extent the domestic, artisanal production of the clubs, which did not benefit greatly from incentives offered by the Department of Agriculture, may be compared with production elsewhere in Québec. In point of fact, the circles received little more than a trickle of aid (2% of the total amounts granted to farming associations). Hence, precise analysis of the evolution of the clubs is necessary to understand the complex relationships binding them to the State. Likewise, systematic study of this kind of association is required to further understanding of the strategies of actors dealing with everyday life.

Bill REIMER et Frances M. SHAVER : *Modernisation, rapports de production et division sexuelle du travail à la ferme, comté de Montmagny, 1951-1981*

The relationship between modernization in agriculture and the development of capitalist relations of production affect the sexual division of labour on farms. Data were collected during a year of field work in a small Québec parish and consist of semi-structured interviews with the adult members of 63 randomly selected farm families. The findings indicate that gender roles are significantly affected by modernization and the development of capitalist relations of production, but not in a simple fashion. It is the interaction effect between the two variables which is most important.

Gary CALDWELL : *Surcapitalisation et idéologie de l'entreprise en agriculture*

During the 1970s and the first part of the 1980s, agriculture in Québec underwent an intense period of consolidation and capitalization. Several consequences of this movement (a drop in the productivity of farm capital and increasing debt) are outlined. In addition, the paper traces the movement's ideological foundations which may be said to reduce farming as a way of life to the mere commercial values of ordinary businesses — a reduction which has spread in the wake of Québec's modernization since the end of the War. The question arises then whether business-farming will be able to meet broader societal objectives, such as land occupation and maintaining social activity in the country side, once it has become one industry among others. In conclusion, the argument is made that agriculture, as other fields of social life, is subjected to a process of deculturation.

Louis-Edmond HAMELIN : *Le rang d'habitat au Québec depuis 1840*

The general pattern of Québec's rural area is the row-type settlement whose basic unit is the range (*rang*) or series of lots in which the dwellings form a fronting line along a road. This pattern of colonization, adapted from Europe has spawned thousands of range units (*rangées*) over three centuries. Its most important development, as the township range (*rang de canton*) lasted from 1840 to 1950.

Bolstered by the agrarian ideology of the Church, the State and colonization companies and subject to the competing pressures of the forest industry, emigration and urbanization, the township range represents a distinctively Québécois elaboration on this pattern; areas where its impact has been felt include: the colonizing ethnic group, lot shape, houses, *rang double*, the near north (*pré Nord*), language and the range cycle (*cycle du rang*). Since 1950, the evolution of society and the rationalization of the economy have led to the closing of about half the ranges, especially in the peripheral regions; the Montréal Plain has resisted this movement the best, through specialization.

Guy DEBAILLEUL : *Zonage et agriculture québécoise dans les années 70*

Several factors led to the adoption, in 1978, of a law to preserve agricultural land in Québec. As the abortive attempts of previous governments have shown, the lack of good, arable land was not a sufficient constraint, even in periods of accelerated urbanization. A combination of factors, both external (growth of the world food crisis of the 1970's, rise in food prices) and internal (coming to power of a nationalist government with an agricultural program geared toward self-sufficiency) was required in order to bring about the consensus necessary for this indirect « nationalization » of the land. Changes since the beginning of the 1980's in the world agricultural situation and in the political climate may already be leading toward significant tension within that consensus.

Bernard VACHON: *Quelques aspects géographiques, financiers et politiques du zonage agricole au Québec*

While the aims of the Law to preserve agricultural land and the types of intervention implemented to reach them are worthy in themselves, it would appear, however, that the area comprised in zoned territory far exceeds the lands suitable for farming activities and encompasses poor soils possessing no foreseeable agricultural potential. This short article attempts to place the problems arising from this situation in their context. It also aims to identify the main consequences of this situation for both the individuals and the communities affected.

Clermont DUGAS: *Marginalité économique et mobilité géographique dans l'espace rural québécois*

The «marginality» of rural Québec was a subject of much interest during the 1960-1975 period. Since then, it has become less of a preoccupation and its meaning in the 1980s has become less clear. An attempt is made to clarify the notion of «marginality», particularly with regard to its economic dimension, and to define its implications in spatial, demographic and occupational terms. The notion of geographic mobility is highlighted. The analysis is locally based, using statistics from 1971 to 1981-1982.

Julie ARCHAMBAULT et Jacques-T. GODBOUL: *Le rural en ville: Laval*

The second largest city in Québec, Laval was created in 1965 from the forced amalgamation of fourteen municipalities (including several farming municipalities) located on the outskirts of Montréal. At its inception, Laval may be defined as a territory in the process of rapid and complete industrialization and urbanization. Twenty years later, almost half of the territory is still devoted to agriculture and «The best farming in town» has become the city's slogan. This paper relates the different stages of this reversal from the rejection of rural life to the promotion of a new way of life whereby the city exists in harmony with the country environment.

Gérald FORTIN: *Quelques réflexions sur un séminaire*

This article contains a number of reflections arising from a seminar on the upcoming generation (*la relève*) in rural environments. Few questions have been raised about the upcoming generation; on the other hand, everyone has something to say about the rural environment even if no one knows exactly what it is. The author attempts to uphold certain positions he adopted in the past.