Seed Grain and Relief

Continued from Page 13

mostly payments on account of seed grain, amount to about $2,500,000.

Postmasters Will Remit

Owing to the failure of the elevator companies to perform the services undertaken, it was decided this fall to discontinue this method and instead to collect thru our permanent Dominion lands organization. A central office has been established at Moose Jaw in charge of H. G. Cuttle, chief inspector of Dominion lands agencies. He has been furnished with a copy of the statements of accounts which are being mailed to each individual who owes us for seed grain. He is dividing his accounts among the staff of inspectors which has been augmented by transfers from other branches of the service. We expect by this method to have visited this year every individual who owes for seed grain.

In order to provide a handy place at which to pay, we have arranged so that the postmasters in charge of money order offices are prepared to accept for transmission to the agent of Dominion lands for their district, any remittances tendered in liquidation of seed grain or relief indebtedness. We will pay commission, postage and war tax on the remittances so that it will not cost the farmer anything to have his money forwarded in this manner.

Perfect Security Taken

The security for seed grain and fodder advances took priority in the Land Titles Offices over any encumbrance. The security for other relief ranked in its place along with any other registrations existing at the time the registration of the relief security was made. Most of the payments which have been made are, of course, credited on account of seed grain, but in a number of cases the relief has also been paid off and a release secured. Of course, the person remitting the money has the right to say on which account he would like to have his money applied and we credit it as directed.

Where Confusion Occurs

Under the provincial legislation the security was registered against the land, and also in the docket against the man's name. As a result, in many cases there were registrations in the docket against many men who did not obtain an advance at all, merely because they happened to have the same name as some man who did secure an advance. We have taken steps, however, to meet this difficulty by furnishing agents of Dominion lands with forms of declarations which can be filled out by anyone who finds himself in this predicament. Upon this form reaching the department, we at once notify the registrar so that the wrongful registration can be removed.

Effect on Titles

Representations have been made to the department that it would be desirable to fix a date subsequent to which this department would agree to be bound by its registrations in respect of liens at the various Land Titles Offices. In this connection, I may say that we have succeeded in overcoming very numerous and very persistent difficulties extending over a period of many months, to such an extent that we think we can safely fix the 1st January next as a date subsequent to which the department will be limited in its rights to such liens as are at that time registered in the various Land Titles Offices. We are further prepared to say, having now, we believe, succeeded in collecting practically all the liens taken, that on and after the 1st October next lienors and mortgagees and prospective encumbrancees may rely upon the finality of information and figures as to liens given by the department at Ottawa. This arrangement will, we trust, be sufficient to remove the difficulties which it appears that borrowers and lenders have encountered. If it is ascertained that the effect of the provincial legislation is to encumber land subsequently acquired by the lienor in priority to encumbrances or charges of any kind existing at the time the land is so acquired, then we will be prepared to recommend or consent to legislation in the proper tribunal to remedy this result. At the same time I am not sure that this is the effect of the legislation.

Suggestion from Calgary

You are probably aware that the Calgary Board of Trade recently called a conference on seed grain matters and