

of Immigration in Winnipeg in regard to the matter, and he intimated that he had forwarded the following wire to the Superintendents of Relief:

The Government will provide baled hay for farm stock only where it is necessary and in moderate quantities.

Now, this is entirely satisfactory; but that promise is not being carried out, and as a result farm stock is being lost, especially cows. As farmers are not able to purchase feed or get it from the Government their farm stock is being destroyed. It is most important for the cause of mixed farming that the Government should carry out the promise made by the Commissioner of Immigration in October last which led the farmers to believe that they should have feed for their stock. I hope the Minister of the Interior will see to it that the necessary instructions are given to furnish feed until the farmers can provide it themselves.

As to the prospects of that country, I am satisfied there is more optimism among the farmers in the drouth-stricken area than can be found in many communities that had good crops last year. Many of these farmers come from states in the American Union where they had to face adverse conditions in the early stages of agricultural development. They believe in the future of that district; they believe the district will come out all right. I am satisfied if the Government come to the assistance of these farmers this year with a supply of seed grain, then, with prospects—which were never better—for a good crop and for high prices, the farmers will establish themselves on a firm footing which will make them satisfied with their new homes in western Canada.

Mr. LEVI THOMSON (Qu'Appelle): My hon. friend who has last spoken (Mr. Buchanan) comes from a constituency entirely within the drouth-stricken area. I come from a constituency no part of which is within the drouth-stricken area. I have a few words to say with regard to the remarks of the Minister of the Interior (Mr. Roche). Like the hon. member for Saskatoon (Mr. McCraney), I am not entirely satisfied with the statement made by the hon. minister, for it seemed to me to consist mostly of qualification. I should like to have some definite statement made. The hon. member for Regina (Mr. Martin) in introducing the motion, referred to the fact that some farmers who now wanted seed had sold grain. The Minister of the Interior

[Mr. Buchanan.]

makes quite a point of that. Had my hon. friend from Regina been a farmer, he would probably have explained the matter a little differently. I know men who are wanting seed grain, not in the drouth-stricken area but in other parts of the country, who, though they have grain, have not grain fit for seed. In the locality in which I live, where we were not drouth-stricken though our crop was a little light, none of the people are asking for seed grain, but we will have difficulty in finding amongst us seed oats that will grow. That will, perhaps, explain the position with regard to the farmers who have sold oats and still want seed. The same is true with regard to wheat. These people who are so badly drouth-stricken may yet have a little wheat, but it is not fit for seed. The case is not quite so bad with wheat as with oats. Rather poor wheat will grow, but it is madness to sow very poor oats. I hope the Minister of the Interior will bear these points in mind when he is considering this question. In the constituency of Qu'Appelle there are only two localities of which I have information as to the need of seed. In one of these, a very small district, the people have a little grain, but none fit for seed. They may have sold a few bushels, but in doing so they did not sell seed grain. Of course, if they had creditors, those creditors would not be willing to remain unpaid if these people had grain to sell.

I desire to draw the attention of the Minister to another matter. In most of the places where seed grain is required, the demand arises on account of drouth. But in one locality in my own constituency, the trouble arises through a complete destruction by hail. I grant you that in cases of this kind it has not been usual to give seed grain, but I think that the Minister of the Interior, in considering this question, must not entirely ignore the localities in which the destruction is due to hail. It is true that when grain is destroyed by hail, the destruction is generally confined to a narrow strip of territory. In the locality to which I refer, one block was hailed out.

Mr. SCHAFFNER: Do not you have provincial hail insurance?

Mr. THOMSON: Yes, we have provincial hail insurance where the law is adopted by the municipality. In these particular localities there is no hail insurance in force; the men of whom I speak have received nothing at all. I grant you, under ordinary circumstances they could procure their own seed