

mendation for his patent, the rule we adopted first was that that man was not an entrant and could not come to us for any assistance; he had to go to the local authorities, the same as if he had a patent. But we found the local authorities would not deal with them—in many cases they absolutely stood out and would not,—and we were confronted with the situation of leaving that man without seed, or else coming to his rescue.

Mr. MURPHY: To whom does the hon. gentleman refer when he speaks of "local authorities"?

Mr. MEIGHEN: I mean the provincial authorities who operate through their municipalities. So that we had to modify our policy, and take in certain of those classes, and we have provided, wherever that has been done, that they should send back their certificate of recommendation and leave it in our hands until they had completed payment on their lands. Now it would be just such cases, coming within ejusdem generis, that would be provided for in the provision referred to. I do not consider the clause of vital importance. However, I think the Bill is better with it than without it, and I prefer to have that phrase remain. I know it will do more useful work, and I fear that if it is left out we will likely be confronted next year by individual cases, or classes of cases, that we cannot meet under the strict reading of the Bill. As to the general criticism that this is providing for legislation by Order in Council, any one who reads paragraphs a, b, c, d and e will see that these are far better left to regulations. We always make the subject of regulations the forms to be used, the formalities to be gone through, the nature of the security to be taken, and all such other matters. Such things are left to be dealt with by regulation in every Bill that has been passed for the last two decades. Talk about legislation by Order in Council! I have taken the trouble to look up the figures, and it may be news to my hon. friend to know that before the War Measures Act was passed at all, before the war even broke out, there were years in which there were more Orders in Council than there have been since.

Mr. BUREAU: That must have been a long time ago.

Mr. MEIGHEN: The only way the Government can act is by Order in Council, unless it acts illegally. Of course, the hon. members knows that just as well as I do,

but he is endeavouring to give some circulation to a popular misapprehension which he thinks may bring him some advantage.

Now, as to the only clause around which any legitimate discussion could circulate, that is, the clause to meet any case which may arise, and for which no provision has been made in this Act, I submit to the better judgment of this House that the Bill will likely do its work better with that clause than without it. I do not consider the clause vital to the Bill; it is not so important as that; the words providing that a man shall be entitled to the money if certain rules apply. I do not think that would be good legislation. It is not the law to-day, it is not the law under which hon. gentlemen operated for years. They were never compelled to lend money to anybody for seed grain. Nobody could fix a set of rules with which a man must comply and then say, "That man shall be entitled to the money whether or no." You could never carry on business in that way, and hon. gentlemen must know it. Ordinarily every homesteader is entitled to seed grain if he has land upon which it can be sown, land capable of growing a crop, unless some particular circumstances arise which would prevent it. I do not know any circumstances arising this year or since I was there, but I know circumstances have arisen when it was not in the public interest to lend.

Mr. SINCLAIR (Guysborough): I understand from the reading of the section that this Order in Council authorized certain advances for seed grain made in October last. Will the minister explain what advances were authorized by that Order in Council, No. 2,472, and under what circumstances was it necessary to take action on that matter in October?

Mr. McCREA: Did I get your final ruling, Mr. Chairman, in the matter of the clause under discussion? I think I was right in making the remarks I made. However, you are Chairman and I abide by your ruling.

The CHAIRMAN: Clause 5 provides for orders and regulations to give effect to the provisions of the entire Bill but does not refer to the general policy of the Government. The hon. member was proceeding to discuss the treatment by the Government of certain interests in this country which he had divided into four classes, when I called the attention of the committee to Rule 13, par. 5. The chairman has no de-