

*Unemployment Continuance Act*

know anything about the subject refuse to rise and defend this condition of things. So much for that. If hon. gentlemen opposite think they are going to freeze us out by silence they are making a bad guess. Apparently the ground is taken by the government that they have no responsibility in the matter. Many times last year, however, the statement was made by the Prime Minister that the government would take the responsibility. At that time questions were being asked about audits and guarantees of proper expenditures by the provinces. I cannot give exact words at this time, and if I could I probably would not be allowed to, but I know that was the stand taken by hon. ministers opposite. My understanding now is, however, that they wish to free themselves from all responsibility as to how the Saskatchewan government and relief commission are administering these vast sums of money.

The day before yesterday I received an answer from the Prime Minister, and I understood him to say that the expenditure of the money was a matter entirely within the control of the Saskatchewan government. Apparently that is all we can get out of them. I venture to say the Saskatchewan government takes the same position in regard to the federal house. No doubt they will be saying, "Well, we have no responsibility; this is the responsibility of Ottawa." There you are.

The primary purpose of the Saskatchewan bill I have in my hand is to incorporate the Saskatchewan relief commission, and that is provided for in the preamble. There is an indication according to the terms of the bill that the commission will be in existence for two more years, and the sections are made retroactive and binding in every possible way. As there has been doubt on the part of some hon. members as to whether there were any seed grain liens being taken on farmers' crops I should like to read section 8 with respect thereto:

When the commission furnishes seed grain to any person under the authority conferred by section 7, the commission shall take from such person a written agreement for a lien (Form A) in favour of the commission upon all crops to be grown, during the year in which the lien agreement is made and the succeeding year, upon the land described therein.

(2) An agreement may be executed in blank as to the quantities of seed grain to be advanced by the commission, but it shall nevertheless be valid and binding upon the lienor as to the quantities subsequently inserted therein by the commission unless the quantities found to have been actually received by the lienor are less than the quantities inserted in the agreement, in which case it shall be valid and binding as to the quantities actually received.

[Mr. Motherwell.]

So you see, Mr. Chairman, they have a habit in the Saskatchewan Relief Commission of having farmers sign documents in blank. The promissory note produced by the hon. member for Weyburn (Mr. Young) and handed to the Prime Minister was the first intimation the Prime Minister had that such kind of promissory notes were being taken. I now have before me a blank seed grain lien, and I do not know whether the government knows about it. If I have time before eleven o'clock I will read the form of that lien. It is in blank, but there is space to fill in interest at the rate of seven per cent. The farmers are tied up by these liens as tightly as they would be with a logging chain so that they cannot either wink an eyelash or wiggle a toe.

There are quite a number of lawyers present. The Minister of National Revenue is a well qualified lawyer, and in addition there are some private members on both sides of the house well versed in law. It may be that I am not familiar with such methods of tying up the farmers—hog-tying them, as I call it. Let me read this document.

(5) Upon the execution of a lien note pursuant to the provisions of this act, such lien note shall be deemed to include without express mention the following covenants by the party executing the same, and his executors, administrators and assigns, that is to say:

The title, ownership, and right to possession of the said grain, and of all crops grown upon the land described in this agreement in the year in which the seed grain is supplied to me by the Saskatchewan relief commission and in the following year, and of all crops grown upon any other land occupied by me in such following year, shall remain at my own risk in the said commission until the selling price of the grain supplied is fully paid with interest, and if I make default in payment, or should I sell, dispose of, or mortgage my landed property, or if the said commission should consider itself insecure, it shall have power to declare the said advance due and payable forthwith, and the said commission may forthwith take action against me therefor, and it may at its option take possession of the said seed, as well as of all crops grown upon the said land during the year in which the said seed grain was supplied to me and the following year, and all crops grown upon any other land occupied by me in such following year, and may hold the same until the said sum is paid with interest, or sell the same at public auction or private sale, the proceeds thereof to be applied, after deducting all expenses in connection with such taking possession and sale, in reducing the amount unpaid thereon; all of which shall be without prejudice to the rights of the said commission to pursue any other remedy or remedies it may have now or hereafter against me in respect of the said seed grain or my indebtedness therefor; and without prejudice to the rights of the said commission to collect the balance remaining unpaid at any time after it has exhausted any special remedy or remedies against me, and for