

ented lands and whether inside or outside the drouth-stricken area, had to do in order to secure seed grain, was to send in his application to the Dominion Lands Office in Winnipeg. With that letter in circulation throughout the province of Saskatchewan, it was a fair assumption for the agriculturist in that country to go upon that he would get seed grain from the Government. The result of that is this—that many farmers, being pressed by wholesalers, machine companies and ordinary creditors, sold their seed, and so have not a bushel to-day. I live in Regina, and for three months, when any person asked me if he was going to get seed grain, I said: Of course, the Dominion Government is going to supply seed to all bona-fide settlers who have lost their crops, for statements to that effect have been published in their party newspapers throughout western Canada, and in official documents. No exception at all has been made; and even though you have been farming in the West for twenty-five years, and have got a section of land, you are going to get seed grain. So, as I have said, many have sold their seed and have not a bushel to-day. And they have been put in that position by these letters sent out from the Winnipeg office of the Department of Immigration. I have here quotations from newspapers that circulate largely in the province of Saskatchewan. I find that in the minds of the people who were doing business for this Government, and in the minds of the editors of party newspapers, and also in conversations that took place amongst ordinary men, there was never any doubt, until the 11th of January, 1915, that the present Dominion Government was going to supply seed grain this year to every person in the province of Saskatchewan who required it. First, let me quote from the Saskatoon Star of the 24th of November last. This appears in large type at the top of the column and on the first page:

Now is the time to put in demands for seed grain from government for next year.

M. A. MacInnes, Dominion Lands Agent, issued a statement yesterday, asking all farmers in need of seed grain in this district not to delay their application. The flow of grain is passing through Saskatoon very heavily now, he stated, and while the heaviest movement was in full swing was the best time for the purchase of seed grain by the government; it was desirable that all applications be forwarded as early as possible in order that the government might be able to find out how much seed grain it will be necessary for them to secure. This is the advice also handed out by Mr. Lindsay, the government's chief buyer.

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Applications hitherto received at the Dominion Lands office have been numerous and each day shows an increase. The stream of applications was materially heavier towards the end of last week than at any previous time during the present season.

The last statement on the subject in this issue of the Star is the following:

'Whoever has an application to make', said Mr. MacInnes, 'tell them to make it right away, so that the government will know how much to provide.'

There can be no doubt about that statement. As late as November 21, I find a long statement in the Saskatoon Star, in the same kind of type and at the head of the column on the front page, as follows:

Seed grain supplied by Dominion Government alone; stock is ready. Considerable misapprehension on the part of many people throughout the province resulting in delay.

Some have been applying to the provincial authorities, which is wrong and wastes time. Applications should be made to lands office.

Let me read a paragraph or two of this article:

Many of the farmers of Saskatchewan are losing much valuable time owing to a misapprehension which seems to have arisen. They have been led by some means to believe that the Provincial Government is handling the supply of seed grain to the farmers who need it. This is an entire error. The Saskatchewan Government has nothing to do with it, and all applications or communications with regard to the supply of seed or feed should be addressed to the proper representatives of the Dominion Government. Farmers should direct their inquiries and applications to the agent of the Dominion Lands in their particular land office district.

Mr. M. A. MacInnes, Saskatoon Dominion Land agent, showed by his correspondence yesterday that the needy farmers, or many of them, are losing time, because of the fact that they have been addressing their inquiries and applications to Premier Scott and other members of the Saskatchewan Government. One farmer in particular wrote asking Premier Scott if the Provincial Government intended to supply seed grain to the northern part of the province, as well as to the southern. As a matter of fact, the Provincial Government is not handling the purchase or distribution of seed grain in any way, and the only thing that the members of that government can do is to turn the letters over to the Dominion Lands offices and notify the farmers that they have done so. This is all a waste of much time which could be saved, and the business of arranging for supplies of seed grain could be greatly facilitated if the farmers would address their inquiries and applications to representatives of the Dominion Government, who are authorized to handle the matter.

And a little further on is this statement:

Thus far the local Dominion Lands office has on file thousands of letters touching the seed