

FROZEN GRAIN

(Special to The Daily News)
Ottawa, Jan. 16.—Under the house, as a matter of public urgency, though the French convention was the order of the day, an adjournment was taken when Clifford Sifton drew attention to the necessity of supplying seed grain to those farmers whose crops were frozen.

Sifton has recently returned from Winnipeg, where he had been informed that serious conditions exist. They wished it to be understood that it was not an affair of charity, but a loan, many of the farmers with plenty of assets, owing to the financial conditions, could not get ready money to purchase seed. Owing to favorable weather conditions in the late fall a larger area than usual had been prepared for seed and if not supplied, several hundred thousand acres would not be sown.

Under present conditions no help can be expected from the banks or loan companies, and something should certainly be done to relieve the situation. It was suggested that the provincial governments assume the responsibility of distributing and securing the repayment of money which might be advanced by the federal government. He did not know if it would be the correct course to pursue, but understood that the matter would be discussed by the provincial government representatives at an early date in Ottawa.

In closing he spoke of the loss which would be entailed if several hundred thousand acres were not seeded, estimating that under ordinary conditions the loss would equal \$10,000,000 to \$15,000,000.

Mr. La Follette followed, and agreed as to the conditions in certain districts, but said that while under favorable conditions frozen grain would grow, it was not a wise policy to plant more than could be helped. If financial conditions were normal he did not think it would be necessary to call on the government. He reminded the minister of drawing attention to the situation on Dec. 16. He thought it would be better to advance money with necessary guarantees for seed, only to be collected in installments by the local authorities. Were the government to distribute seed it might give wrong impressions abroad where the unusual conditions are not understood. Dr. Cash said that in his district seed oats were the greatest necessity, and spoke of the farmers who had \$10,000 assets, but could not raise \$700. The banks not only will not lend but are hard on those who do owe them. Two bad seasons, owing to seed shortage, would be a calamity.

Hon. Mr. Grey responded, with evident pride, to the \$40,000,000 of farm and dairy products raised in Manitoba during the past season. He said that in such areas, the seed shortage was not so acute, and that the government needed as plenty of grain as available in the province. He thought it better, however, to deal with the questions before all the grain was shipped out of the province. He said that the Manitoba government would not be overlooked, however, in the arrangements made. He thought the provincial authorities were in the best position to handle the details of distribution.

Dr. McIntyre thought the newer settlers require aid more than the farmers who are already established. He said that Herron thought no aid was required in southern Alberta except in isolated cases, but agreed that something should be granted on the recommendation of the improvement boards. Col. Hughes, having expressed sympathy with the proposal, E. B. Osler expressed the opinion that it would be a mistake to lend money directly to the farmers, as in many instances the money would never be repaid. He suggested the matter should be dealt with in a business way, through a loan company.

McCracken thought it better to supply seed than money; there was plenty of good seed available for purchase in the Goose Lake district.

Jackson agreed with the other Manitoba members that that province would not require much help and also that it could be better distributed through the provincial government.

Crawford approved, as did George Taylor, chief conservative whip, but thought the best way would be to deal through the banks and grain dealers. Dr. Schaffner was surprised that an old parliamentarian like Sifton should bring up the question without more data. No member who spoke had mentioned a request made to them for seed. Certainly none had in his district. However, he was prepared to support a provision to aid those farther west. It was better to supply seed than money, but before anything was done, more definite information should be gathered. He was opposed to the idea that the problem would best be handled by the banks and grain dealers. He had no confidence in the latter and the former had stretched branches all over the country and were now taking advantage of the confidence that they had had. Influence should be brought to bear on the banks to make them more reasonable. They approved of supplying seed through the provincial government.

Dr. Roche deprecated discussion, as liable to be hurtful abroad and thought Sifton's information might not be altogether disinterested. He thought that the municipal authorities were the best judges, and to them provincial authorities would doubtless appeal to distribute the seed.

McCarthy had no demand in his section; if any plan were decided on there should be no discrimination as to length of settlement.

Hon. Frank Oliver regretted the necessity but as it exists it might as well be discussed. The past season was unfortunate, but it would be a double misfortune should the winter be so short that the crop for lack of seed. Probably the provincial government and municipalities could supply all the needed help in Manitoba. The greatest assistance was needed in Saskatchewan and northern Alberta. The matter had been discussed with the provincial governments

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(From Friday's Daily)
The meeting of the western branch of the Canadian Institute of Mining Engineers was continued yesterday, when morning and afternoon sessions were held, with the president of the branch, A. B. W. Hodges, in the chair. The general superintendent of the Granby Consolidated Mining, Smelting and Power Co., of Grand Forks, in the chair.

Before summarizing yesterday's proceedings it may be mentioned that at his own request the name of J. J. Campbell was withdrawn from the ballot paper for the council and that of S. G. Baylock substituted therefor, in whose favor Mr. Campbell wished to retire.

The first business taken up yesterday morning was consideration of the following two resolutions, which were unanimously adopted:

Proposed by E. Jacobs and seconded by Thomas Kiddie: "That the western branch of the Canadian Mining Institute hereby express its satisfaction at the establishment of a dominion department of mines, with its geological and mines branches, under the control of a minister of the crown, and directed by his several chief officials, the deputy minister of mines, director of the geological branch and director of the mines branch, respectively."