

part of the Government. Mr. Maclean said in part:

The problem now is a financial one. It is not a question of which government is willing or which government is unwilling, but which government is able. Obviously, the Dominion Government is in a better position to borrow the large sum needed to supply feed and seed than provincial governments. The municipalities are helpless and the banks are doing nothing. Consequently, the Dominion Government is being bombarded from all sides to come to the rescue. It is a question of finding the money and the grain. It may not be the business of the Dominion Government to supply the seed and feed, but it looks as if no one else can do it.

This matter has also been dealt with by the Saskatoon Board of Trade. On the 6th of January the Saskatoon Board of Trade sent the following telegram to the Department of the Interior:

It is stated by Walker of Winnipeg that only those on unpatented homesteads will be given seed or feed grain. Surely this is incorrect. Wire immediately so that we may contradict.

There is a letter confirming that telegram, which I need not read, and the answer of Mr. Cory, the Deputy Minister of the Interior, is quoted in the letter of the 15th of January written by the Board of Trade to Mr. Cory. Mr. Cory's answer was dated the 12th of January and is as follows:

Your wires 6th and 7th and letter 6th. Arrangements being made whereby it will be possible to advance seed grain and relief to needy settlers who own their lands.

This despatch from Mr. Cory on the 12th of January, places no restriction as to area, on patented or unpatented lands. On the 21st of January the Saskatoon Board of Trade wired Mr. Cory:

Bruce Walker's letter to farmers, dated 13th, emphatically states seed will only be given to those on unpatented lands who lost crop and that all others must look to their municipalities or provincial governments. This flatly contradicts your wire dated the 12th. Such confusions causing serious general unrest. Please wire us something to publish that will finally remove all uncertainty.

This telegram is quoted in the Phoenix of January 30, 1915, and up to that time no reply had been received. Notwithstanding the attitude of the Saskatoon Star and its statements to the public that there was no use sending a delegation to the provincial Government, on the 4th of February, 1915, the Star came out with an article headed: 'How the provincial Government is dealing with the seed grain question; Mr. McNab's letter,' and then it says a circular letter signed by Mr. McNab showing how the provincial Government is dodging the

[Mr. McCraney.]

question of assisting in supplying seed grain in the case of needy farmers, is being sent around. It will be noticed that from having been most positive that there was no use applying to the provincial government for seed grain, the Saskatoon Star, which is one of the culprits in the whole matter, turns around and tries to make out that it is the provincial Government that is dodging the issue, and when as a matter of fact if there is any dodging it is being done by the Ottawa Government.

As I said a little while ago, it is not a question of the Dominion Government or of the provincial Government or of the municipalities giving so much money to the West; it is a question which government will lend the farmers so much money, for which it will have ample security. The important point to-day is not that, but the opportunity to buy seed grain at the present time as compared with several months ago. It will cost to-day at least fifty per cent more to buy seed grain, in consequence of this policy of uncertainty and delay on the part of the Dominion Government in dealing with this question than it would have cost if the seed grain had been purchased some months ago. If the provincial government had understood three months ago that they were to take hold of this question, the necessary grain could have been purchased much more cheaply and supplies of grain would have been available which are not available to-day. Like my hon. friend from Regina (Mr. Martin), I have received telegrams asking me to use my influence in having certainty instead of uncertainty with reference to this question.

This discussion has come up at an opportune moment. I wish that the statement of the minister had been more satisfactory than it is, because his own friends have produced the situation. He has said that some will be dealt with who have patented lands outside of the area, but there is a discrimination which gives no certainty to any one who may desire to rely upon the promise of this Government to make advances of seed grain.

Mr. W. A. BUCHANAN (Medicine Hat): Mr. Speaker, I do not know whether I am in a position to complain or not, because if the statement of the Minister of the Interior is carried out, my district will be satisfied. Unfortunately for me, I represent a district that is almost entirely within the drouth-stricken area of the province of Alberta. The