

ion Government shall take security from the farmers upon making the advance. The hon. Minister of the Interior (Mr. Roche) has spoken as though there was a misunderstanding between the members of the government of Saskatchewan and of this Government as to the area that would be supplied with seed grain. I think I am safe in saying that if there has been any misunderstanding, there has been no misunderstanding in the province of Saskatchewan in relation to it. There has been no member of the Provincial Government who believes that the assistance of the Dominion Government was to be restricted to the area in the south-western part of the province. There has been no misunderstanding in the minds of the people at large throughout the province on that point and there has been no misunderstanding in the minds of those who are closest to this Government and who belong to the Conservative party. My hon. friend from Regina (Mr. Martin) has quoted articles published in the *Saskatoon Star*, which is the Conservative organ of the district. The city of Saskatoon and that district are not within this area of drouth so that any observations which that paper made editorially or by way of news could not have reference to the drouth area but were addressed to those who live outside of it. The *Saskatoon Star* of the 3rd of December, 1914, has an editorial showing the sort of invitation which was sent out by this Conservative organ to the farmers of the Saskatoon district, and you will notice that there is no restriction in it as to whether those who require seed grain live on patented or on unpatented land:

The Government's Prompt Aid.—There will be general appreciation of the fact that the Dominion Government is rising to the occasion in the matter of extending aid to the western farmers who lost their crops in the drouth of last summer.

A further editorial appearing in the *Star*, as late as the 30th of December last, contained this statement:

At the big storage elevator at the edge of this city, hundreds of thousands of bushels of seed grain are being accumulated, and no man who files his application for a supply for spring seeding need be short. Farmers who are without seed grain and who may not have the means of procuring any should at once make their wants known. Application should be made at as early a date as possible and every farmer should sow every available acre of land. Grain prices are sure to be high next fall.

This shows the character of the appeals made by the organ of the Conservative party to the people.

The Conservative candidate in the last election in the riding of Saskatoon was Mr. Donald Maclean, a gentleman who has received the Conservative nomination for the next election whenever it will be held. His understanding of the matter is apparently the same as that which has been put forward by the *Saskatoon Star*. On the 8th of January last Mr. Maclean addressed a meeting of Conservatives in the city of Saskatoon and his explanation of the delay in supplying seed grain was, that it was due to difficulty on the part of the Dominion Government in getting assurances from the provincial Government that the Dominion Government would be given satisfactory security for the advances made. Mr. Maclean's statement would go to show, however, that the distribution of seed grain would be general, and that it would be made both within and without the drouth area and on either patented or unpatented lands. In that speech which was published in the *Saskatoon Star*, Mr. Maclean said:

Overtures were then made to the provincial governments of this province and Alberta, and they were told that if they would guarantee to legislate so that the Dominion Government could take liens upon patented lands as security for the advances, the Dominion Government would undertake the supplying of all seed grain that the farmers needed.

There is a general statement made by Mr. Maclean without any restriction whatever, and apparently any question as to security to be provided to the Dominion has been removed. According to the statement of the minister, the Dominion Government is to be given a first lien on the land, which I think is quite fair, and it removes the only difficulty which seemed to arise in Mr. Maclean's mind at that time, in the way of the Government carrying out what he believed to be its policy as to the distribution of seed grain which Mr. Maclean must have been informed of by the friends of the Government. Later on, Mr. Maclean gave an interview in the city of Saskatoon, which was quoted in the *Winnipeg Free Press* of February 2nd last. He had evidently found out in the meantime that the Government had changed its policy, and that they wanted to restrict the supply of seed grain to the drouth area. This is the statement of Mr. Maclean, who as I say, is now the accepted candidate of the Conservative party in the Saskatoon electoral district, and who retains the view, which had evidently been impressed upon him, before the change of policy on the