

Dominion lands, \$1,052,669.35; on school lands, \$103,405.77.

UNOPPOSED MOTIONS FOR PAPERS.

Mr. Buchanan: For a return showing how much money was spent amongst the merchants of the city of Medicine Hat for government relief, to whom payments were made, and the total amount in each case.

Mr. Buchanan: For a return showing the quantity of coal imported into Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba, respectively, from the United States in 1914, and the amount of duty collected in each province for coal imported during 1914.

SEED GRAIN FOR WESTERN FARMERS.

Mr. W. M. MARTIN (Regina) asked for leave to move the adjournment of the House for the purpose of discussing the question of supplying seed grain to the farmers of the western provinces.

And leave having been granted,

He said: I have no apology to offer for bringing this question to the attention of the House at this early stage in the session. That the matter is of great importance and urgency cannot be disputed. It has been the policy of all governments in Canada to supply seed grain to the farmers of the West in case of need. That has been done on two or three occasions during my residence in western Canada. In 1908 and on previous occasions seed grain was supplied to farmers on unpatented lands, under certain restrictions. The Government, however, proceeded on the assumption that men who had not yet got their patents for their homesteads were really wards of the Dominion, and for that reason no question whatever was raised as to the proper policy to be pursued by the Dominion Government, no matter which party was in power. I desire to put before the House briefly some of the facts in connection with the conditions at present obtaining in western Canada, in order to show to the Government, to the House, and to the country, that the supply of seed grain, not only to men who reside on unpatented lands, but to men who reside on patented lands, is necessary for the development of the province of Saskatchewan in the year 1915.

It is a well-known fact that a large portion of the province of Saskatchewan—I refer particularly to the southwest portion—was drouth-stricken during the year 1914, with the result that very little crop over a large area of that part of the province was harvested. During last summer, before we held our short session of Parliament in the month

of August, I went through the western part of Saskatchewan from Swift Current, southwest and then east from almost the Alberta boundary, and the whole country for at least a hundred miles had the appearance of a desert. The wind that blew off that portion of the country felt almost like the wind from a desert. There was practically no crop there at all. This condition of affairs was known to the provincial governments of western Canada and also to the Dominion Government as early as the month of October, 1914, and certain steps very properly were taken by the Dominion Government and by the provincial governments of Saskatchewan and Alberta to relieve the need that existed among the farmers of that drouth-stricken area. There is no question to-day that certain relief has been given by the provincial governments and that certain precautions have been taken by the Dominion Government for the purpose of supplying seed grain to that drouth-stricken area; but a difficulty has arisen with respect to farmers who reside outside that drouth-stricken area or on patented land. In addition to the large area which I call the drouth-stricken area, there are other portions of the province of Saskatchewan, smaller in extent, which require assistance by way of seed grain during this year. There are portions of the country not very many miles from the city of Regina in which I reside. Only the day I left Regina to come down to this session of Parliament I had two requests in my mail for seed grain, one from a group of farmers who reside within twenty miles of the city of Regina and the other from a group of farmers who reside within forty miles of that city. I mention these instances only to show that the drouth-stricken area is not the only portion of Saskatchewan which requires seed during the present year. There is a great demand for seed grain throughout Saskatchewan outside of this drouth-stricken area.

Yesterday I received a letter addressed to myself from an organization of rural municipalities with headquarters in the city of Saskatoon. I have no doubt that other hon. members on both sides of the House from western Canada have received similar letters. The letter reads as follows:

At a meeting of representatives of the following municipalities, namely, 374, 343, 310, 280, 345, 375, 373, 313, 252 and 344, of district No. 5, Saskatchewan Association Rural Municipalities held in Saskatoon, the following resolution was unanimously passed: