

being distributed very generously or very expeditiously at the present time. I have brought some of these complaints to the attention of the department, and I will confess that the minister has given them his attention. But these complaints continue to come in, and I am advised that stock is suffering seriously in cases where farmers are not in a position to purchase feed themselves. I am also informed that the feed supplied is being limited to work horses. Consequently cows and farm stock and other kinds are suffering because farmers cannot get feed for them. I would like the minister to outline the exact policy of the department in regard to the distribution of feed in that drouth-stricken area, so that the people there will have a proper appreciation of what is being done.

Hon. W. J. ROCHE (Minister of the Interior): The question of fodder for animals has not been brought to my attention so conspicuously as the question of seed grain. The Commissioner of Immigration in Winnipeg has full charge of the purchase and distribution of grain and of fodder as well. But my understanding is that representations were made to the department to the effect that it would be almost useless to supply seed grain to the farmers if their stock were not kept in a sufficiently good condition to enable the farmers to put their crops in; and, recognizing the force of that argument, the Commissioner of Immigration has engaged to distribute feed oats to supply the horses which are to be used in seeding, both before and during the seeding season. In addition to that, there are farmers who have been left absolutely without any crop in the drouth-stricken area, and who have a certain number of animals absolutely without any fodder. For some months past Mr. Bruce Walker has been distributing fodder to these animals. I do not know exactly the quantity he is distributing, but I understand that all the cases that have been submitted to him have been investigated and he is, in his opinion, supplying fairly generously the amount of fodder required for these animals. To be sure, some unreasonable requests have been received in regard to fodder as well as seed grain, requests to which we could not possibly respond favourably. For instance, we have had requests from men who are owners of 20 head of horses and 30 head of cattle, but have not sufficient fodder for all of them. They thought that all they had to do was apply to the department for fodder and they would be supplied, a request

[Mr. Buchanan.]

which, in our opinion, was entirely unreasonable and has not been responded to favourably, because those people had the option of either raising sufficient money on the security of their stock to produce fodder or disposing of some of the stock and feeding the others with the proceeds. I think the policy of the department is that wherever a limited number of animals are required to be kept by a farmer and they are absolutely deprived of any fodder, the Government should give a certain amount; but, as in the case of the seed grain, we have fixed a maximum amount to be given to any man, and in some cases that has not satisfied the applicants. They are complaining because we would not distribute more than 400 bushels of seed grain as a maximum. There may be some who think that they are not being dealt with as generously as they should be. However, I think that all legitimate demands are being very fairly met.

#### QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE.

##### COMMISSIONER DUCHEMIN'S ACCOUNTS.

On the Orders of the day being called:

Mr. D. D. McKENZIE (North Cape Breton): Mr. Speaker, I wish to refer to a question of privilege. On the 10th day of June last, from my seat in this House, I made the statement that a certain one of the Royal Commissioners appointed by the Government had received payment to the extent of \$128.95 when, in fact, according to the terms of his engagement by the Government he should only have received \$21.35. During this session the hon. member for Guysborough (Mr. Sinclair) asked the following question in reference to the observations which I had made:

With reference to the charge brought to the notice of the Government by the member for North Cape Breton on June 10, 1914, as reported on page 5238 of Hansard, that one H. P. Duchemin, of Sydney, N.S., a commissioner appointed to investigate charges against partisan officials, had embezzled over \$75 of the public funds in connection with one item of his account, by charging six days remuneration and expenses for less than one day's work, has the Government investigated this charge?

The answer given by the Secretary of State is to be found at the bottom of the page, and it is in this form:

For the Customs Department, the answer is: The charge made by the member for North Cape Breton was looked into by Customs Department and inquired into by Auditor General and found to be not true. The report of the Auditor General on this matter appears