

*Settlers in Rouyn District*

In a letter which I read to the house he mentioned that he was allowed only \$1.40 a head. He has eight children, so that with his wife and himself, there are ten of a family who have to live on \$14 a month. Every hon. member will realize that it is absolutely impossible to keep body and soul together on such an amount. I could cite two or three others cases, but I do not believe it would be in order to do so at this time. Again I repeat: No family and certainly not a single man should be allowed to settle on the land after the end of June. No matter how well administered the scheme may be, no one should be allowed to go on the land in the fall or winter. In the last two years we have allowed many people to settle in the northern sections in the fall or late in the summer and it is impossible for those fine people to make a success. On that score, however, I believe the government is well seized of the situation.

There is another case which I want the government to understand. A number of those new farmers who have been taken away from their previous occupations and thrown into a new one are finding it impossible, even under the \$600 scheme, to finance the buying of seed grain so as to put in a crop on the land which they cleared last year. I believe the government out of either the equalization fund or in some other way should find it possible to get some of the surplus grain which has been accumulating in the west for a few years and which must deteriorate, and distribute it in the northern section of Ontario. I have in mind hundreds of cases of farmers and settlers who find it impossible to put any seed into the ground for the simple reason that they have not the money to do so. I believe \$500,000 would be quite sufficient to meet the requirements of those people. I have under my hand a newspaper dispatch in which I read that the provincial government is sending Hon. Doctor Robb to make an inquiry into the situation, and really this is praiseworthy because a minister of the Ontario government will find out for himself the actual situation and will see that some help must be given. The provincial government go further; they say that they are going to give to some of the settlers who at present are on relief, from ten to twenty bushels of seed grain. This is a move in the right direction. I believe the federal government in this back to the land scheme should enlarge its policy by allowing a sum of \$500,000 to be voted by parliament so that not a single settler placed on the land under this scheme will suffer from lack of seed during the present season. As regards the view that they should be self-supporting,

[Mr. Bradette.]

we all know that on new holdings or farms, it is impossible for these people for a number of years to make the thing go with the crop that they find there. Unless they have some seed grain placed in the soil this season, they will be in a worse position next fall than they are at the present time.

There is another matter which I believe will come under this heading, and which has a great deal to do with public health, particularly in the unorganized sections of our country, especially northern Ontario and northern Quebec. We know the doctors in the organized localities are looking after the population not only in the districts in which they live but also in the unorganized sections. I have in my hand a regulation issued by the provincial government last fall whereby it has curtailed the amount that is to be paid to the doctors for their services, extending to every section in which they are giving medical attention. I said in the house early this session, and I repeat that this regulation is actually prejudicial to the health of the individual. It is very harmful to the rural sections and every member will readily understand that a sum of \$100, where each doctor has to look after a population of at least 6,000 people, is ridiculous. I believe it is in order to read the regulation so that the house may be fully seized with the situation. It reads:

Regulations as to medical services and medical supplies. This statement is issued in order to clarify in the minds of the municipalities and the doctors the proper interpretation of the phrase "medical services and medical supplies" which appears in the order in council dated the 19th of September, 1932.

At the outset, it must be clearly understood that the government is not forcing any policy upon the municipalities with regard to this matter. Each municipality has the right to decide for itself whether it wishes to undertake any medical services in connection with direct relief, and also as to the nature and plan of such medical assistance.

2. As set out in the Public Health Act (section 51, clauses 1, 2, 3 and 4) municipalities are directly responsible for the medical attendance and medical supplies of their indigent population.

This new regulation might well apply to other sections of the province of Ontario. The Minister of Labour is familiar with the northern part of that province, and must realize fully that it cannot apply to the section of the country from which I come. In that part of the province there are only a few organized rural districts. Most of them are in the colonization stage, and there are no municipal bodies to take care of them. A doctor from Timmins giving services in one of the surrounding rural districts would find