

grain, but under present circumstances, I do not think they can. The same thing would apply to municipalities. Under ordinary circumstances, municipalities might supply the seed grain required, but under present circumstances they cannot do so. I am not here to blame the banks; I think the situation they have to face is a serious one. I understand, however, that the banks are refusing to supply money to municipalities for such purposes as this. I am not sure that we can blame the banks for that, they have a heavy load to carry. I do not think the argument of the Minister of the Interior is good when he seeks to show from the action of the Saskatchewan Government that it was not their intention to supply grain to any except those in the drouth-stricken area. It may be true that public works which went on in that province were only carried on in the drouth-stricken area, and it is also true, I presume, that the Government here have not received requests for ordinary relief of the people except in the drouth-stricken area. That, however, has no application to the question of seed grain, especially as matters stand now in regard to finances. And I think the minister must consider the financial situation. He is bound to consider all these things, and considering these things, I think he must come to the conclusion that, though the demands may be very great, he will have to very freely interpret the promise made here to-day in order to fulfil his duty. There are many localities outside the drouth-stricken area in which, if he fulfils his duty as a minister, he will supply the requirements so far as seed grain is concerned. I shall be pleased to furnish him with information as to localities in my constituency that I think require seed, and I trust he will give them favourable consideration, as I trust he will give favourable consideration to all localities requiring seed, remembering that the financial situation is not such as ordinarily faces us, but that men who, under ordinary conditions could get seed on their own credit cannot get it now.

Mr. D. B. NEELY (Humboldt): Mr. Speaker, I am surprised to learn that the Government have decided to limit the area in which they propose to give help in the matter of seed grain to the settlers of the West. I remember that during the months of November and October of last year a number of my constituents who are not in what is understood as the drouth-stricken

district of Saskatchewan, wrote to me with respect to the question of getting seed grain for the coming year and I immediately laid their communications before the Commissioner of Immigration at Winnipeg, Mr. J. Bruce Walker. I have not his reply at hand, but I remember very well that in every instance Mr. Walker directed that these settlers should communicate with him directly and should give full particulars as to whether they resided on patented or unpatented land, as to the amount and nature of seed they would require, etc. Copies of his reply to these settlers came to me, and therefore my memory is sufficiently clear for me to speak plainly and absolutely on the point. It appears that the Government changed their mind and are now going to limit the aid proposed to be given in all areas except certain prescribed areas known as the drouth-stricken districts of the provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta. If the Government carry on this policy it certainly will have the effect of leaving a great many settlers in various parts of the provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta; outside of what is known as the drouth-stricken district, without any provision for seed grain this coming spring. While in certain areas of Saskatchewan there was practically a complete crop failure, there were many other limited areas, a number of them in my own constituency, where, while there was not a complete crop failure, the amount and quality of the crop were so poor that the settlers in those instances find themselves quite without any provision for furnishing themselves with seed for the coming spring. If the Government propose to be parsimonious in dealing with the settlers in these scattered and more or less limited districts, then I say there will be dozens and scores of settlers in various parts of Saskatchewan, outside the drouth-stricken area, who will, in the coming spring, be unable to seed their ground. This is a serious situation and requires heroic treatment by the Government. It certainly is not a time when this Government or this country can afford, through the lack of seed grain for the farmers of the western prairies, to have a shortage in our grain crop. I am sure that every member in the House will agree with me in that statement. It is in the interests not only of the farmers on the plains but of the whole of Canada and of the British Empire, that every acre of land in Canada, from east to west, that can be