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M.P.P.,

Seed Grain and Relief

An Outline of the Work of the Federal Government in Relieving the Western Farmers in 1914-15

A great deal of discussion has been aroused over the financial complications caused by the government seed grain advance of 1914-15. In order that the matter may be clearly understood The Guide is publishing the facts of the situation. The crop of 1914 was a total failure over a large section of southwestern Saskatchewan and southeastern Alberta. In fact the failure was so complete that the farmers were not only without seed, but were also without fodder for their horses and consequently could not prepare the ground for the next crop. Many also had no money to buy food for their families and fuel. The Dominion government came to the relief of these settlers and supplied seed grain, fodder and relief. At first particular areas were marked out in Saskatchewan and Alberta, but later it was thrown open to all three provinces. In order to ensure repayment for seed, fodder and relief advanced, the Dominion government made contracts with the Saskatchewan and Alberta governments by which the Dominion government was permitted to take security on the land and the crop of those who secured the advances. Power to take this security rests solely with the provincial governments, but special acts were passed by the legislatures of Saskatchewan and Alberta by which the Dominion government took security for all seed grain and fodder advances against all the land that the farmer owned, all that he might thereafter own, all the crop produced from the government seed and any crop he might thereafter produce until such time as he has paid in full the Dominion government claim. The advance bears interest at five per cent. until paid. All this security against the land takes priority to the first mortgages, and this is what has caused the difficulty. In Manitoba no special legislation was passed so the Dominion government is an ordinary creditor in that province and the standing of the first mortgage is not interfered with.

Dr. Roche's Letter

In order to get the full facts of the case the editor of The Guide applied to Hon. W. J. Roche, minister of the interior, Ottawa, by whose department the seed grain, fodder and relief was distributed. Herewith is Dr. Roche's letter giving all the information:—

Herewith is Dr. Roche's letter giving all the information:—
Ottawa, 28th September, 1916. Editor, Grain Growers' Guide,
Winnipeg.

My Dear Sir:—
I have your letter of the 25th instant, in which you ask for certain information in connection with the distribution by the Dominion government to destitute settlers in the prairie provinces of seed grain, fodder and relief in the fall of 1914 and the spring of 1915.

In reply, I may say that owing to the magnitude of the undertaking and the fact that so many of our experienced clerks have been absent on active military service overseas, it has been impossible to complete the final accounting of this work, but I will endeavor to give you sufficient information to answer your purpose.

The object of the administration in

work, but I will endeavor to give you sufficient information to answer your purpose.

The object of the administration in making these advances was twofold.

1.—To alleviate the destitute settler, thereby preventing starvation or emigration—the only alternative.

2.—To enable farmers to seed every available acre, it being realized that the future of our country depended in a great measure upon the crop.

It is true that the boundaries originally fixed to limit the area within which the distribution was to be conducted were later extended, but in this connection I would point out that all applicants for seed grain furnished a full statement of their circumstances to the commissioner of immigration, Winnipeg, who dealt with the applications. The result of the government's advance of absolutely clean seed is now apparent and will prove of lasting benefit to the whole country. It has been estimated that there has been raised from the seed distributed by the government:—

75,000,000 bushels of wheat.

government:—
75,000,000 bushels of wheat.
210,000,000 bushels of oats.
500,000 bushels of barley.
Applications for seed grain received,
granted and refused were as follows:—

Received 16,099 40,759 2,399 52 59,309 Granted 14,907 36,074 1,894 52 52,927 Refused and withdrawn 1,192 4,685 505 ... 6,382 Speed grain we found to the control of the con

Seed grain was furnished to the above mentioned to the following extent:—
Wheat—2,978,973 bushels at \$1.50 per bushel.
Oats—3,503,068 bushels at 85 cents per bushel.
Barley—116,489½ bushels at \$1.00 per bushel.

bushel.

The number of distribution points was: Alberta, 181; Saskatchewan, 342; Manitoba, 60. Total, 583.

The maximum granted to any one settler was 400 bushels covering all kinds of seed. Per acre to be placed under cultivation the maximum grant was: Wheat, 2 bushels; oats, 3 bushels; barley, 2½ bushels.

Over 50,000 Farmers Aided

Over 50,000 Farmers Aided

In Saskatchewan 19,004 farmers on unpatented land received seed to the value of \$2,521,197.75, and 17,070 farmers on patented land received seed to the value of \$3,084,747.09.

In Alberta 8,437 farmers on unpatented land received seed to the value of \$922,382.40, and 6,470 farmers on patented land received seed to the value of \$999, 379.81.

Fodder and Relief

The number of settlers on unpatented and patented lands who received relief other than seed grain in the provinces of Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and

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Saskatchewan	
Battleford Land District	54
Saskatoon Land District	6,583
Maple Creek Land District	7,682
Swift Current Land District	9,584
Moose Jaw Land District	0,430
Humbolds Land District	19
Yorkton Land District	221
Regina Land District Weyburn Land District	5000
Estevan Land District	-
Prince Albert Land District	48
Manitoha	
Winnipeg Land District	2.457
	-
Kamloops Land District	265
PLANDRINGS LANG LIMITES	400
Total	49.383
Totals	
Alberta	15.600
Alberta Sakatchewan	31.207
Manitoha	2,457

Plans for Collection

It was considered reasonable to expect that in view of the bumper crop harvested those who were assisted by the government would feel it their duty to repay as soon as possible, especially in these times when every dollar is needed for war purposes. It was largely on this account that the administration decided, in the fall of 1915, to endeavor to collect one-half of the seed grain advance. The members of the grain sind elevator trade, after conference at Winnipeg, volunteered to assist in effecting this collection by deducting the amount required from the proceeds of the farmer's grain when marketed. As a matter of fact, all the companies did not adhere to the arrangement, and the failure of those to carry out their undertaking resulted in our not being able to collect the amount we thought we could reasonably have expected to receive.

Twenty Per Cent. Collected

While the total amount voted for med.

Seed grain \$ 7,600,000 Relief 4,400,000

Continued on Page 20

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Cushman Motor Works of Canada Limited

rs of the World-Famous 4 H.P. Cushman Sinder Engine that Dom All the Farm World 284 Princess Street, Winnipeg, Man.

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