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Liberal Conservative Party

RELIEF FOR THE WESTERN SETTLER



The Government Takes Prompt
Action to Aid Farmers Whose
Crops Have Been a Failure

How the Relief Work
will be carried out

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Relief for the Western Settler

The Borden Government has given still further proof that it is a Government for the people. To the people of Western Canada this must be particularly apparent.

Since the present Government took office everything possible has been done to improve the condition of the settlers on the prairie. Many changes in the homestead and grazing regulations and a policy that has given cheaper and better transportation facilities have done much to assist these pioneers.

The recent announcement of Government assistance to the settlers in the areas affected by drought is in keeping with the avowed policy of the Government to protect and assist the new settlers.

In that large area from Moose Jaw to Calgary and south of the South Saskatchewan River, climatic conditions this year caused an almost total crop failure. In no part of the West could such a condition have a more disastrous effect for the reason that the district has only been recently settled and few of the settlers have realized little, if anything, from the land. When it became known that the settlers were faced with a crop failure that would be followed by hardship and serious loss, the Government took immediate action to relieve those suffering from the result of the unusual climatic conditions.

The Department of Interior arranged for free transportation from the affected districts to the wheat fields so that the settlers could secure employment in harvest and threshing. Government agents warned the settlers to secure hay for their stock or drive their stock to good pasture land or the grain fields.

For those who wished to leave to secure employment elsewhere for the winter, it was arranged that their homestead holdings would be protected against cancellation—no cancellations being permitted in the affected area until April of next year.

In addition to this the Government issued instructions that all the R.N.W.M.P. remounts be purchased in the crop failure area, thus affording a cash market for nearly one thousand horses.

But as many would be unable to leave their farms the Government, to meet the situation, divided the area into districts for relief purposes. These districts are the Dominion Lands districts of Moose Jaw, Swift Current, Maple Creek, Lethbridge and Medicine Hat. An official has been placed in charge of each of these districts and with the assistance of the R.N.W.M.P. will provide the settlers with ample food for themselves and families and fodder for their stock where necessary.

There will be no hardship or suffering and no sacrificing of stock or implements necessary for work on next year's crop.

The Government's policy and plan of administration will thus amply protect the settler and keep him on the land, preserving for him his home and the chance of reaping next year the reward which is assured the western farmer.

Hon. Robert Rogers, acting Minister of Interior, has placed this relief work in charge of Mr. Bruce Walker, immigration department, and Mr. Angus McKay, inspector of western experimental farms. Mr. McKay is the foremost authority on farming in the west and his supervision of this important work is a guarantee of satisfaction to the people.

This prompt and efficient action by the Government has successfully met a serious situation which threatened the depopulation of a large area in the West and has protected many settlers in that area from financial ruin and great hardship.

