

EVENTS OF THE YEAR

During the fourth and last session of the tenth Parliament of Canada 172 measures were enacted. The session lasted from November 28 1907 to July 20 1908. Public general acts numbered 77, and the principal subjects of legislation were old age annuities, the provision of seed grain for the season of 1908, the inspection and marketing of grain, the Quebec tercentenary, the Dominion civil service, homesteads, immigration, transportation, the conduct of elections, tobacco, opium, patent medicines, and the treatment of juvenile delinquents. The remaining 95 acts were local and private. Dominion Parliament.

Owing to the exceptional character of the season of 1907 the provision of an adequate supply of seed grain (wheat, oats and barley) for the spring sowings of 1908 in Saskatchewan and Alberta became a matter of urgent public importance, necessitating the intervention of the Dominion and provincial Governments. A late spring and consequently delayed seeding operations in 1907 was followed by continuous and prolonged moisture, which in many places prevented the due ripening of the crops. The occurrence of early and severe frosts before the ripening of the grain rendered the crops over large areas of the two provinces wholly unfit for seeding purposes, whilst in other cases grain was so badly frosted that its use for seed was manifestly inadvisable. A large proportion of the farmers in the two provinces, though financially of good standing, were not in a position to pay cash for the purchase of seed, and from various causes, but chiefly owing to their recent organization, the provincial governments of Saskatchewan and Alberta were not able to advance the funds required. The provision of seed grain for Northwest provinces in 1908.

In these circumstances, and after ascertainment of the probable requirements according to the conditions then existing, supplementary estimates were submitted to the Dominion Parliament, involving the appropriation of \$2,850,000 for the purchase and distribution of seed grain to the farmers of Saskatchewan and Alberta under easy terms of repayment. Of the sum named, which was granted by the Dominion Parliament in the Appropriation act, chapter 1, \$585,000 was allocated for seed grain to be supplied by the Dominion Government to homestead settlers, the cost to be repaid with interest at five per cent per annum, and until repayment to be a lien or charge upon the lands of the settlers held under homestead entry, and \$1,825,000 and \$440,000 were appropriated for advance to the governments of Saskatchewan and Alberta, respectively, for the purchase of seed grain for settlers, the amounts to be repaid to the Dominion Treasury on or before March 31 1909, with interest at five per cent per annum, and if not then repaid to become a Appropriations for seed grain.