

charge upon any subsidy or grants payable by the Government of Canada to the governments of the provinces. Shortly after these arrangements had been completed a perceptible change occurred in the financial condition of the west, and banks, loan companies and private individuals came to the assistance of those requiring seed. The result was that the quantities actually supplied through government agency were fortunately far short of the original estimates, and the public situation was relieved to that extent.

Quantities of grain purchased.

The total quantity of wheat purchased was 557,364 bushels valued at \$567,551, of oats 1,024,861 bushels valued at \$671,169, and of barley 50,807 bushels valued at \$46,302, the total value of the three cereals being \$1,285,022, or less than half of the sum originally appropriated. The net expenditure incurred in the purchase and distribution of this grain was \$1,373,808, of which \$507,949 was expended by the Dominion Government on behalf of homestead settlers, from whom the sums advanced are recoverable direct, \$714,944 was advanced to the provincial government of Saskatchewan and \$150,914 to the provincial government of Alberta. In spite of considerable pressure caused by limitations of time, the arrangements were carried through successfully, and the special excellence of much of the seed supplied, secured by the payment of premiums in excess of the market price for milling, should have an important influence extending beyond the actual results of the season of 1908.

Government annuities for old age.

Chapter 5 is an act to authorize the issue of government annuities for old age. It gives power for the sale by the government to persons domiciled in Canada of immediate or deferred annuities depending on a single life, or partly depending on a single life and partly for a term of years certain, or of immediate or deferred annuities depending on the joint continuance of two lives with or without extension of benefit to the survivor. The interest of an annuitant is not transferable, and except in cases where annuities may be obtained with intent to delay, hinder, or defraud creditors, the property or interest of any annuitant is not attachable. Annuities are not as a rule payable unless the annuitant has reached the age of 55; but in the event of death before arriving at this age all moneys paid will be refunded to the heirs with interest at the rate of three per cent compounded yearly.

Adulteration of cheese and marking of fruit.

Chapter 35 amends the Inspection and Sale act. It imposes penalties not exceeding \$500 and not less than \$25 for the adulteration of cheese during the process of manufacture by the incorporation therein of any inferior curd or cheese, and prohibits the placing in cheese of any foreign substance. The object of this legislation is to prevent the fraudulent practice of "stuffing" cheese with worthless curd or old cheese, and to stop the foolish practice of placing bottles containing notes, etc., in