

Mr. BENNETT: They are not the facts, as he understands them.

Mr. CRERAR: The facts are simple, and clearly indicate the whole course of the transaction.

Mr. BENNETT: What has it to do with the \$15,000,000?

Mr. CRERAR: The hon. member for St. Lawrence-St. George, the ex-Secretary of State, would not agree with it. I do not know that he would know very much about it at the time, but I am perfectly certain he would not agree with it. I am sure the hon. member for Yale would not agree, nor the hon. member for York South.

Mr. BENNETT: Well, they all did, as a matter of fact,—if that will do you any good.

Mr. CRERAR: But those are the facts.

Mr. BENNETT: Those are not the facts.

Mr. CRERAR: They are.

Mr. BENNETT: No. Mr. McFarland did not buy that wheat for the purposes given and under the circumstances noted. That is his statement to me, at any rate.

Mr. CRERAR: Then why did he buy it?

Mr. BENNETT: He can answer that.

Mr. CRERAR: It could not have been for stabilization purposes.

Mr. BENNETT: It was the only machinery that was available for that purpose.

Mr. CRERAR: My right hon. friend talks about fixing the loss. Every bushel of wheat that Mr. McFarland bought after the price was fixed, some of it as high as 93 cents a bushel, is in that account shown as a loss. And that loss was established on December 2. My right hon. friend made a great deal of play about including this in the accounts submitted by the Minister of Finance to the house. I say to the committee that the Minister of Finance would have been lacking in his elementary duties to this country if he had not included it.

Mr. BENNETT: Do not shake your fist so hard; you may hit the Minister of Finance.

Mr. CRERAR: This wheat taken over from the Canadian Cooperative Wheat Producers Limited is no longer for the account of the farmers. This wheat, as soon as it was taken over, became the property of the Canadian government, through the Canadian wheat board, and it was operated through their account. If the price went up the Can-

[Mr. Crerar.]

adian government would make a profit, and if the price went down the government would make a loss. Does my right hon. friend or any member of this house argue for a moment that when there was a known loss in the wheat which was taken over, that loss should not have been disclosed to parliament and to the country?

Mr. BENNETT: Of course, but the loss has not yet been established.

Mr. CRERAR: It was established.

Mr. BENNETT: Not until the last bushel is sold.

Mr. CRERAR: My right hon. friend says, "Let us wait and see; the market may go up."

Mr. BENNETT: No, no, no; it is a question of realization of the security.

Mr. CRERAR: The loss was established when the wheat was taken over. If my right hon. friend is buying wheat—

Mr. BENNETT: He never bought a bushel.

Mr. CRERAR: All right. But this is the situation: The Canadian Cooperative Wheat Producers Limited had this wheat; the government had guaranteed the bank account and were responsible for every cent of it.

Mr. BENNETT: Against ultimate loss.

Mr. CRERAR: Yes; but when it was taken over it became the property of the government, because it was not the property of the government under the guarantee when the wheat producers had it.

Mr. BENNETT: Yes; it was pledged to the bank as security for the loan.

Mr. CRERAR: Yes, but it was not the property of the government; it was the property of the Canadian Cooperative Wheat Producers Limited.

Mr. BENNETT: The property of the banks, under section 87 of the Bank Act.

Mr. CRERAR: It became the property of the government, and there was a definite loss at the time it was taken over. Does my right hon. friend or any other hon. member say that that loss should not have been disclosed?

Mr. BENNETT: Of course not.

Mr. CRERAR: I shall not detain the committee at further length, but I must say that the Minister of Finance would have been entirely lacking in his duty to the house if he had not disclosed those figures. I hope the predictions of my right hon. friend may come true—or possibly they were only hopes. I