

I have most of our statements to show, and if Mr. Dodds will tell us the reason why he has cut me down so much in the last few years on my credit line, I shall be content. Further than that, he mentions that I have a line of credit of \$7,000 on customers' paper. How is it that I can hardly get \$3,500, it may be \$4,200, I am not going to dispute the amount? I am using all the paper I can use in his bank and still he gives me that big line of credit, but he will not take my customers' paper. How do you credit these things? Further, he will find, since he has mentioned that I owe him \$800, that I have had a credit balance for a considerable time right in his bank, instead of owing them anything. Occasionally, I will go over a few days. Another thing, they have opened their hearts; I am willing to admit this: They have opened their hearts enough to allow me a credit line of \$2,000 to run my flour and feed business. I should like to know the reason why he cuts me down so much on my credit.

By Mr. Duff:

Q. Is that \$2,000 in addition to discounting companys' paper?—A. Yes, direct line.

Q. How much customers' paper can you discount on your credit?—A. As I tell you, they pretend to give me a credit line of \$2,000; but they will not take the paper. They are watching us pretty close in regard to my customers' paper; no matter whether I endorse them or not, it does not seem to count much. They have actually turned back good customers' paper that they would not take at all, paper that was paid in full in thirty days. That is why I say their management is poor.

The CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, I do not think discussion ought to go any further. If there are differences between Mr. Reed and his own bankers, I think they ought to be settled privately.

Mr. SPENCER: May I ask one question. I should like to ask Mr. Reed if he can give us his total assets and liabilities.

The CHAIRMAN: Do you think we ought go into that phase of the matter?

Mr. SPENCER: We have had a statement—

The CHAIRMAN: We have nothing to adjudicate here between Mr. Reed and his bankers. No matter what he may feel, I do not think we ought to go into his private business with the bank, and the bankers' dealings with him. I think Mr. Reed will admit some of the statements he has made here are not in conformity with the facts.

The WITNESS: I do not know. Did I tell you I could not get any credit at all?

The CHAIRMAN: We are not to go into a man's private business.

The WITNESS: If I made the statement that I had no credit at all with him, I meant to say, that some of my customers have not been able to get any credit at all.

Mr. HOWARD: May I just attempt to straighten out a few of Mr. Reed's difficulties in this way. It is not Mr. Reed's personal business that interests this committee, as you say, and rightly so, but Mr. Reed happens to be in the county of Stanstead, in the flour and feed business, and therefore he is a supplier of feed to the farming community for about ten miles round, the whole farming section in the Eastern Townships. Now, I should like to ask Mr. Reed two or three questions in regard to that, if he will answer exactly the questions.

By Mr. Howard:

Q. Mr. Reed, when you get credit from the bank, what do you do with it?—A. My whole personal credit I use to pay for a car of grain or something on the track.

[Mr. James B. Reed]