

rules should prevail. Let the Minister of Trade and Commerce give a guarantee against ultimate loss in connection with his printing plant, and let the other party call upon him to make good his guarantee; he will say: "Have you realized on the security? because my guarantee was only for ultimate loss." That is all I have suggested. That loss cannot be known until such time as there has been liquidation, and there will have been liquidation only when the last bushel has been sold; until then, that liability does not arise.

To introduce this estimate at this time is an action political in character, inspired by the conduct of Murray, whose evidence given before the committee indicated that was just what was to be done; first of all, sell regardless of cost; send your men abroad and tell the great buyers of the world: We are going to get out of the business, sell at less than cost, and then fix the price for the security held by the banks at 84½; disregard the agreement, disregard the provision for ultimate responsibility and ultimate loss, forget all about it and introduce into parliament a provision to pay \$15,000,000 in order that you may go around the country and say: They lost \$15,000,000 on wheat, whereas if the price were fixed at the price that prevailed on the Monday, the day Murray swears he took hold, the loss would have been reduced by four cents a bushel; if it were later it would be increased. How then can it be determined until there has been liquidation? That was the reason for the agreement between the banks and this country, and I say it was the duty of the Minister of Finance to protect this country.

Mr. DUNNING: Hear, hear; I am doing that.

Mr. BENNETT: Is he?

Mr. DUNNING: Yes, by this very vote.

Mr. BENNETT: Then why is he putting in a vote that fixes the loss at \$15,000,000 without knowing what it is going to be?

Mr. DUNNING: Because the money is going to be lost.

Mr. BENNETT: But until there is liquidation of the last bushel it is not lost. The whole of it is not lost.

Mr. DUNNING: That is the principle upon which my hon. friend handled wheat for five years. On that principle we differ.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

Mr. BENNETT: It is not the principle. Oh, hon. members may cheer as much as they please, but the fact remains that until

such time as that agreement with the banks has been implemented, it is not determined. Why depart from that agreement? Why change it? Why change the ordinary rules of business? Why depart from sound business practice in a matter of this kind? Why say: "We will not wait for liquidation; we will not wait until the loss has been ascertained; we will anticipate the loss and say it is \$15,000,000 without knowing whether it is \$15,000,000 or some other figure?" I ask the hon. minister if that is the way he or anybody else has been accustomed to doing business. Where security is held and the agreement provides for liquidation and the determination of ultimate loss, there must be liquidation before that loss can be ascertained. Until that is done it is a departure from the agreements; it is a breach of the agreement made between the government of the day and the banks—for what purpose? For one purpose and one only: to magnify the operations of 1936 and minimize the operations of preceding years.

I protest, Mr. Chairman. It is all I can do. To depart from law, to forget agreements, to wipe them out as scraps of paper, to fix a price regardless of conditions; on a rising market to fix a loss, which has not yet occurred, at a figure which can be determined only when the security has been realized upon, is to depart from all sound business considerations and to create a precedent in this country that the machinery of the treasury is to be used to show a loss for purely political reasons.

Mr. CRERAR: I have observed in this house that when the right hon. leader of the opposition speaks with the greatest vehemence he is usually on the weakest ground. He never was on weaker ground than he is at the present time.

Mr. BENNETT: Well, he is prepared to be judged on that.

Mr. CRERAR: He has been setting up straw men and knocking them down with great vigour. Now, what are the facts of this whole business? My right hon. friend has given some of them himself. The mistake that my right hon. friend has made was that he always looked upon this whole transaction from the time he and his government took hold of it as if it were a great speculation. That was the fundamental error of my right hon. friend.

Mr. BENNETT: That is not so.

Mr. CRERAR: I will prove it from his own words uttered just a few minutes ago.