

more reason to think that they will be difficult about the matter than has the leader of the opposition. I do know that we must be able to give them all the facts with respect to Canadian consumptive demand and Canadian sources of supply. On their part they will have accurate information as to the possibilities of meeting Canadian demand from British sources. They already know of that.

I can assure the committee that we are not losing sight of the problem. It is one of the problems which arise in the course of administration when we are faced with an upset such as the one which has taken place in the iron and steel industry of the whole world as a result of the tremendous armament programs. I can assure my right hon. friend that the matter is under consideration, the facts are being assembled and proper action will be taken.

Mr. BENNETT: Mr. Chairman, the minister says that if he was as sure of the facts as I am he would have no difficulty.

Mr. DUNNING: Of all the facts.

Mr. BENNETT: The essential facts are all the facts that are necessary to be known if the government is in earnest in dealing with this matter. First, the interest that represented the matter to the minister was not, I think, the interest that represented the matter to me. I was approached by a representative of the consumers, not of the producers. The man who supplies most of the west with this material was in this city. He told me that he was unable to get his raw material, and wanted to know what he was to do to meet the demands of the consumers of western Canada.

Mr. DUNNING: That is not the same man.

Mr. BENNETT: Certainly not. I assume the interests who saw the minister were the producers of galvanized sheets. The gentleman who saw me has been for the last twenty-five years the principal western distributor of this material. I do not know whether the minister saw him.

In order that there may be no question about the matter let us see what are the essential facts. Time is important. Every day lost, every hour lost, makes it more difficult to get raw material at reasonable prices from the United States. Prices of steel in the United States have gone up from \$3 to \$8 per ton, and will probably go higher. While we are investigating the cost of agricultural implements the prices of the raw materials

[Mr. Dunning.]

that enter into those implements have increased twenty-five per cent. That is the position which we have to face at the moment.

The first essential fact is that there is only one source of supply in Canada at the moment. The second essential fact is that the contemplated additional production will not be available during the next three months. That can be stated as a certainty. If it is available in three months, it will not be in a position to supply the requirements of black sheets for galvanizing.

Mr. DUNNING: It is working every day turning them out.

Mr. BENNETT: To supply the requirements of these people.

Mr. DUNNING: That is supplying Canadian demand.

Mr. BENNETT: That is the second factory, not the first—not the Hamilton plant. The minister said there was a second plant which would probably be in a position to increase its production during the next few months. I am pointing out that it is not in a position at the moment to meet the spread between the demand of the Canadian people and the production of the single factory at Hamilton.

The next essential fact is that they cannot get supplies from England. The British will not undertake deliveries in time to make galvanized sheets available in western Canada this season. The other fact is that, at the moment, you can get galvanized sheets—or may be able to get them—in the United States. The question of price is important, because it is dependent upon daily, almost hourly conditions; every hour lost imperils the opportunity of production by one plant with which the largest, or one of the largest, distributors in western Canada has placed his orders. These are essential facts. What facts should the British government know that they do not know, that the minister has, that cannot be presented? Shortly, the story is that Canadians in the west cannot get galvanized sheets for their requirements this spring unless we can bring in from the United States a quantity of raw material for the production of these sheets. In order to do that—

Mr. DUNNING: That is not proven as far as I am concerned. That is my point.

Mr. BENNETT: I do not pretend that I have the facilities which the minister has at his disposal; for he has only to ring a bell and he can ascertain these facts within twenty-four hours. This country has a service of telegraphs and telephones quite adequate for that purpose. The known distributions in the