

By Mr. Donnelly:

Q. What reason did they give you?—A. I will tell you what I did. I do not want to take up as much time as the other speaker has done, so I shall make my remarks short.

Q. You say you could get a line of credit to the extent of \$6,000 to \$8,000, and you have practically the same assets now as you had then. What reason did they give to you for not wanting to extend to you a line of credit to the extent of \$6,000 to \$8,000?—A. I will tell you this. Here is a statement. That shows how it has been standing. I cannot understand it; you will have to ask them. My business is the same; I am dealing with the same people, and we have not ventured out, you can rest assured, in any new scheme during those hard times. We are not making a lot of money out of our business, but we are breaking even.

Q. You have the same security that you had?—A. The same thing, exactly.

Q. But you cannot get that same line of credit?—A. To tell you the truth, not one-half as much.

Q. Is the rate of interest just as high as it was?—A. The rate of interest, I understand, has been reduced a little, to about 6½ per cent. They have taken off a whole half of one per cent; but I told the Macmillan commission in Montreal regarding the interest business, and you do not want me to repeat anything.

Mr. FRASER (*Cariboo*): Has your business been as profitable during the last few years?

The CHAIRMAN: He said they had broken even.

Mr. DODDS (General Manager, Bank of Montreal): May I ask Mr. Reed one or two questions. He just told us that he had no credit from his bank.

The WITNESS: Yes. I did not say that I did not have any credit. I beg your pardon.

Mr. IRVINE: I raise a point of order. I do not think we should allow the banks—

Mr. DODDS: I do not wish to ask any questions, if the committee does not wish me to.

The CHAIRMAN: I think the committee ought to allow Mr. Dodds to ask questions.

The WITNESS: I will tell you one thing. For my part, as far as I can, I am willing to answer questions of the bankers or anybody else. The bank that I am dealing with is the Bank of Montreal. Let me tell their general manager right there, that—

Mr. DODDS: I do not wish to listen to a speech by Mr. Reed; but if I am not going to be allowed to ask Mr. Reed any questions, I do not want him to address me. I am quite prepared to answer any questions Mr. Reed puts to me, if he answers the questions I put to him, and then you can make up your minds which side of the case you wish to accept.

Mr. SPENCER: I think it should be left to you, Mr. Chairman, as to whether or not you should permit this cross-examination.

The CHAIRMAN: Of course, the bank has been attacked very severely.

Mr. VALLANCE: The bank has been attacked for the last three or four days, but they did not jump up then, in all deference to Mr. Dodds.

Mr. DODDS: I wish to say in answer to that that this is the first time anyone has made a direct attack upon one bank, for not having given a credit. Now, I am willing to prove there is a credit, that Mr. Reed already owes the bank money, and the evidence he gave on a previous occasion was not correct. If you do not want to listen to it, all right.

[Mr. James B. Reed]