Mr. Howe (Port Arthur): We intend to be competitive. We think we have some control over the competitive situation. The North American supplies are the largest in the world and I do not think we in North America need panic if one country in another part of the world decides to cut its price below ours. It is almost inevitable that we in North America will hold some kind of blanket over the smaller exporting countries.

Mr. Harkness: How do you intend to do it? Will you do as you did in 1935? Will you throw it on the market?

Mr. Howe (Port Arthur): What market?

Mr. Harkness: The world market.

Mr. Howe (Port Arthur): We did not do that.

Mr. Harkness: Your party did.

Mr. Howe (Port Arthur): But prices were very much better after we took over. I will give you the figures, if you like. I have all sorts of figures here.

Mr. Macdonnell: Do not screen the figures.

Mr. Howe (Port Arthur): When my hon. friend from eastern Canada starts dreaming about prices we get some funny results.

Mr. Rowe: The figures are not so important as the principle.

Mr. Howe (Port Arthur): Well, I will give the figures. You asked for them.

Mr. Rowe: No, I asked for the principle.

Mr. Howe (Port Arthur): My hon. friend begins to take interest when? I suppose about the thirties. Does he?

Mr. Rowe: I was interested a long time before that.

Mr. Howe (Port Arthur): We will start with 1927. That was a good year. These are farm prices: in 1927-28—and these are bureau of statistics figures—the price was 98 cents per bushel on the farm; 1928-29 it was 78 cents a bushel on the farm; in 1929-30 it was $1.03 on the farm; in 1930-31—I guess this must have been after the election—it was 47 cents a bushel on the farm; in 1931-32 it was 37 cents on the farm; in 1932-33 it was 34 cents on the farm—that was a great year and that figure was the average price on the farm for wheat; in 1933-34 it was 47 cents on the farm; in 1934-35 it was 60 cents on the farm; and then, what was the year we had the fire sale?—1935-36; the average price for 1935-36 was 60 cents; in 1936-37 it was 92 cents and in 1937-38 it was $1.03.

Mr. Argue: That is the year you sold it to the farmer when there was a crop failure. You sold it to them for seed.

Mr. Howe (Port Arthur): Well, one would think that the prices must have got better when the government changed.

We have had several solutions offered for this problem. I think perhaps the most fantastic one is that by the hon. member for Assiniboia who deals in fantastic ideas. We are members of the international wheat agreement and we are partners with, I think, 48 other countries in that agreement, but in spite of that the hon. member suggests we have several other agreements. First, he would have an agreement with the United States to sell at the same price.

Mr. Argue: Co-operate.

Mr. Howe (Port Arthur): Co-operation, yes, but it must be an agreement and no nonsense about it. Then next he suggests an agreement with the United Kingdom and that would be a special agreement under which we would supply wheat to the United Kingdom and, I suppose, as an inducement we could give them a lower price. Is that it? I think that after you had made these three agreements you would be a little confused as to who was agreeing with whom. But in any case it is a fantastic idea and I shall not pursue it.

Mr. Argue: You were pretty proud about the United Kingdom agreement when you had it.

Mr. Howe (Port Arthur): But now we have other agreements.

Mr. Argue: As long as your government signed it you were proud of it, but when someone else suggests it then the idea is fantastic.

Mr. Howe (Port Arthur): All right, but one agreement at a time. Three at one time are too many. Then we have the old perennial that we should sell our wheat for sterling. That is a very good idea except that I do not know of anyone who wants to buy our wheat for sterling. The United States has been proposing the sale of wheat in local currency and I know only of two sales which have been put through on that basis. One was to Japan and the provision in that case was part gift and part sale. The part sale was conducted in yen which was to be used for the support of the United States army in that country. The other was a sale to Spain and part of that sale is to be paid for in pesetas and the pesetas are to be used in constructing aeroplane bases in that country.