

Hon. Mr. STEVENS: No one wants this information. You have got it there every month.

Mr. SPENCER: Excuse me, I am asking this question.

Hon. Mr. STEVENS: I object to a question like that being allowed to go out, by a responsible Committee of Parliament. It is obviously not in the public interest.

Mr. SPENCER: It is in the interest of the people of Canada that they should be informed on all these subjects of public interest.

Hon. Mr. STEVENS: The question is based on absolutely a false premise.

*By Mr. Spencer:*

Q. Any one knows that this country might not be called on for such a payment, but what percentage could be met in gold or Dominion notes?—A. Do you mean if they were all called for at once?

Q. Yes.—A. I refuse to answer that line of questioning, and that is all there is about it. I do not think it is a square deal.

Hon. Mr. ROBB: Are you basing your question on the supposition that there might be a run on all the banks of Canada at the same time?

Mr. SPENCER: No.

Hon. Mr. ROBB: I object to such a line of questioning.

Mr. SPENCER: If the banking institutions will not stand the light of day, it is time we knew it.

Hon. Mr. STEVENS: That is not a fair way of putting it.

Mr. SPENCER: I have the President of the Bankers' Association saying he refuses to answer a question about the banking system.

Hon. Mr. STEVENS: There is an answer to it, and that is that we could probably pay double the ratio that they can pay in England, and that ought to be safe enough for any one.

*By Mr. Spencer:*

Q. Mr. Chairman, I am submitting questions to the witness. What percentage of gold is carried in proportion to these deposits?—A. The banks are not required to carry gold. They do carry it, as a matter of fact, but they are not required to carry it.

Q. What do they carry instead?—A. Dominion Government notes and other credits.

Q. But you say they are not required to carry any. What amount do they carry?—A. It is on the return for you to see, sir.

Q. Could you give me that?

Hon. Mr. ROBB: But, Mr. Spencer, when these savings are put in the bank, they are used; they are put out in loans for the benefit of the business of the country. Some of them are put out in your own part of the country, and you yourself have asked me to keep banks in your part of the country so that the people in your constituency should be served. Are you saying now that the people should not be served with loans from that source.

Mr. SPENCER: No.

WITNESS: There were 48.8 million in Canada in gold, and 18.7 million held abroad.

*By Mr. Spencer:*

Q. Do the banks loan on interest the deposits payable after notice?—A. We lend the funds of the bank. As soon as the money is paid in to the bank, it is merged. We do not know whether monies are the funds of the bank or savings deposits.

(Mr. Albert E. Phipps.)