

year contract with the government at the rate of \$45 a month. I wonder what our people would say if they were asked by the government to work for that rate. Some of our farmers are paying their hired men 50 cents an hour. Surely if our potatoes are a bit higher we should patronise them anyhow.

Mr. Burry I find this debate on this report very helpful and interesting. I am bound to point out, however, that there is no reference made to Labrador. The members can very well be excused for that, because no one would think that Labrador is an agricultural country. I bring it up, because I think the agricultural prospects of Labrador are based on the future welfare of Newfoundland and Labrador.... I foresee that a lot of Newfoundlanders will be called upon to go to Labrador to take part in the mineral and timber operations there, and I think that Newfoundland should know something of the agricultural prospects of Labrador. When families are asked to uproot themselves from our fishing villages they will want to know the possibilities of growing some vegetables. It would not have been a bad idea if the Committee had brought in something along that line. Because they have not, I want to tell you that there are possibilities for agriculture in a small way, for gardening, in Labrador. Anyone should not have any fear about the climate or the weather.... It is better than the Avalon Peninsula, Mr. Higgins.

A professor from Nova Scotia did a scientific test of the soil in Labrador, and it is very interesting. Along the coast nothing much can be done, but when you go inland 20 or 30 miles vegetables can be grown, and at Lake Melville, 150 miles in, lots can be done. The Hudson's Bay Co. at North West River and all the families around there, can grow all the vegetables they need if they put the time on it. The Grenfell Mission grows from 75 to 100 barrels of potatoes, and cabbage by the hundreds of tons, and all the ordinary vegetables. I have grown celery and bleached it, and tomatoes, although the season is rather short, but all the ordinary vegetables can be grown in these bays.... In 1938 Dr. Paddon,¹ a great doctor, encouraged gardening in Labrador, said in the *Daily News* that gardening in Labrador was three

weeks ahead of Newfoundland. That does not mean we are three weeks ahead in setting out gardens, but around the middle of the summer the result is about three weeks ahead of the east coast of Newfoundland. I left my own home on the north side of Bonavista Bay when the potatoes in our garden were just peeping through the ground. I went to North West River, it took me about a week to get there, and when I saw my own garden there our potatoes were out in flower. The explanation is the long sunny days that we get in the great dependency, I suppose....

Mr. Reddy I must agree in part with the member from White Bay in speaking of his experience on the southwest coast. I am very familiar with the activities at Winterland. The people there are in a fairly comfortable condition, selling their produce and getting a high price for it, and there is no question they have bettered themselves considerably. The settlement at Marystown is not nearly so successful. I don't know why, but it is a fact. I would like to know the cost of these field workers, and how many there are.

Mr. Butt There are only three at the present time, although the estimates provide for 16. The reason for the shortage is that they can't get the men.

Mr. VincentIn his comprehensive study of Newfoundland, Professor R.A. MacKay² has this to say: "Agriculture's claim to recognition in this country is as a handmaid to other industries rather than as an industry in its own right." I believe the report bears out the truth of this statement and refer you to page 1, when the Government Analyst states that about 3% of our soil (some 700,000 acres) is first-class agricultural land, and 30% is second-class soil. Of the 3% comprising 700,000 acres, the 1945 census shows total holdings of 124,953 acres, which still leaves some 600,000 acres for those who believe in the back-to-the-land movement. It may be an accident of birth that some of us grew up in districts where a normal size potato, or a turnip with an attractive figure, was as rare as a \$100 bank note, but the fact remains that in a large part of our island the development of agriculture is severely limited by the availability of the soil, by soil fertility, and the preoccupation of the people at the fisheries and

¹Dr. Harry Paddon, physician with the Grenfell Association at North West River.

²R.A. MacKay (ed.), *Newfoundland: Economic, Diplomatic and Strategic Studies* (Toronto, 1946).