

cial results to the people of the country as a whole. I endorse the work of the Newfoundland Industrial Development Board and recommend

that they receive all the encouragement possible. *[The committee rose and reported that it had passed the report. The Convention adjourned]*

February 26, 1947

**Report of the Committee of the Convention which interviewed
His Excellency the Governor in Commission¹**

Mr. Job I did not know that I was to make this motion, and unfortunately I have not prepared any remarks. I simply move that this report be received and suggest that it be read to the House.

Mr. Crosbie I second that motion.

[The motion carried, and the report of the Committee was read by the Assistant Secretary]

Mr. Cashin Mr. Chairman, when this Convention decided to send a committee to confer with the Governor in Commission with the object of obtaining information relating to the sending of delegates to discuss the affairs of our country with the governments of Great Britain, Canada and the United States, I was one of those who voted against such a measure on the grounds that such a committee could not obtain any tangible results. Today, that Committee has presented its report and its nature is such as I anticipated.

Over and over, I have given expression of my opinion that it is futile to entertain any notion that we can expect sincere co-operation from either the Dominions Office or its local agents, the Commission of Government. I have given definite instances of the obvious intention of our rulers to thwart and circumscribe the activities of this Convention — of their intention to divert and keep our thoughts and actions in the harmless and ineffectual channel of petty discussion. I have pointed out that as a country and a people we are being trifled with, that our rulers do not intend to allow us to interfere with the plans they have laid down. Time goes by, the treasury of our country is being squandered, and future generations are being harnessed with huge financial commitments.... I say that under the present set-up, this Convention can do nothing to help our people or our country. If the doors of this Convention were closed tomorrow it would make no appreciable difference or have any effect on the already prepared plans of the Dominions Office. The future of this country has been planned out long ago in an office thousands of miles away. And if

Mr. Attlee can do it, he is going to see that we follow out his plans to the letter.

The fate of this country does not rest with this Convention, but in the hands of the common people. We have been given the glory, but Mr. Attlee has kept the power. If there are any amongst us who cling to the vain hope that this Convention might be able to protect and safeguard the financial and political interests of this country, they should be long disillusioned. We have only to examine the report before us today, to obtain ample confirmation of what I say. We have the position where the members of this Convention, representing over 300,000 people, decide to ascertain the possibility of establishing economic relations with other countries, and in particular the United States. To quote the resolution: "bearing in mind the present occupation of Newfoundland territory by the United States of America and the fact that free entry is accorded the USA for its imports into Newfoundland." Arising out of this resolution, a committee of the Convention asked the government if they can approach the USA with a view to making some profitable arrangements in the interests of the country, and the answer to their request is a clear and definite refusal. We, the people of Newfoundland, are told that the Dominions Office will not allow us to make any attempt to better our national conditions by opening negotiations with the United States. When the people of this country, through their appointed representatives are prevented from exercising the ordinary freedom of bargaining with another country, what name are we to put on this sort of thing? Could there ever be presented to us a stronger justification for having control of our own country? Imagine the position, if the British government tried to prevent Canada or Australia or any other colony or dominion from doing business with the United States. Would not the thing be regarded as so outrageous and improper

¹Volume II:446.