

man in Newfoundland or in Canada will be brought under the unemployment insurance scheme.

**Mr. Fogwill** I understand this Unemployment Act is compulsory for all those eligible and the maximum benefit is limited to one year, no matter how long they pay into the fund?

**Mr. Smallwood** It is compulsory, on the first point, for those classes of workers designated by the Unemployment Insurance Commission who, incidentally, have the power to recommend it to cabinet, who in turn have the power to include any new class of workers without amending the act. As to the maximum period during which employees may receive benefits, frankly, I do not know. I do not know if it is limited to a year or if it is not. I will undertake to find it out.

**Mr. Fogwill** I think it is in one of the books, but I cannot find it at the moment. From the paragraph here, he is allowed one-fifth of his total payment — if he paid in five years he would be allowed benefits for one year, but if a person paid in for 20 years, his maximum benefits would still be confined to one year. If he was out of employment for two years, he would have to start all over again.

**Mr. Smallwood** Mr. Fogwill may be right or he may be wrong. I will certainly check on it and bring in the authority for the statement.

**Mr. Hickman** I was wondering if Mr. Smallwood had any figures or estimates of what Newfoundlanders would benefit under this scheme? If it excludes "agriculture and horticulture, fishing, hunting, and trapping, lumbering and logging, stevedoring, private domestic service, employment in hospitals and charitable institutions not carried on for gain, teachers, members of the police forces and permanent federal, provincial and municipal employees," etc. etc., how many would be left in the country who would be able to come in under this scheme?

**Mr. Smallwood** To begin with, loggers and longshoremen before this year is over will be under this scheme. If you take in Newfoundland all the loggers, longshoremen, mill workers, all factory workers in and out of St. John's, all miners and railroaders, office workers, labourers — you would have possibly 50,000 men brought under unemployment insurance, more brought in than left out. You would have teachers, domestic

servants, civil servants, whether provincial or federal. Still you have fishermen left out, and that would account for 25,000 or 30,000 right off. Possibly it would be half and half; we are only guessing, I have not got the figures.

**Mr. Fogwill** Page 89, Book 1<sup>1</sup> reads, "The amount of benefits which may be paid to an unemployed person depends upon the number of contributions which he has made to the fund, but under no circumstances can an unbroken period of benefit exceed one year."

**Mr. Smallwood** That makes it clear...

**Mr. Fogwill** The point I want to make clear is, "One of the conditions of unemployment ... daily contributions for two years prior to his claim." In the case of a person who is paying into this unemployment fund for 20 years and then becomes unemployed, he would get one year's benefit. If unemployed for another year, he would have to start all over again after paying in for 20 years.

**Mr. Smallwood** It is a great pity that when the war broke out in Newfoundland they did not introduce unemployment insurance; they could have \$5-8 million in Newfoundland today.

**Mr. Hollett** I would like to have the point raised by Mr. Fogwill clarified properly.

**Mr. Chairman** Mr. Smallwood accepts, I think, Mr. Fogwill's interpretation....

**Mr. Fogwill** You would not have to work for two years, you would have to work for a short period. Assuming a man uses up his year's unemployment benefits after that period, he must be employed for a further period; then he would have to start as a new member into the fund.

**Mr. Smallwood** I do not know whether Mr. Fogwill's interpretation is correct. I will look into the matter and get some confirmation of it.

**Mr. Hollett** It is not a question of Mr. Smallwood looking into the matter. We want an official statement about that. I would like to raise that issue through you as Chairman of the Convention.

**Mr. Chairman** I cannot do anything about it unless requested from a member of the Convention; I can then forward the request to a department of government....

**Mr. Jackman** I would like to ask Mr. Smallwood, is that really correct, sir, is the weekly wage in Canada \$5.40 or \$7.50 a week?

<sup>1</sup>The Black Books.