

movement, and I am in sympathy with it. I asked a direct question, and got a camouflaged answer. I asked whether it was consistent with the whole idea of the co-operative movement that it should obtain government assistance. I got no proper answer, and I am surprised, from two men who are so prominent in the co-operative movement. They should have said, "No, the government has nothing to do with it."

Mr. Keough What right have you got to get any such answer?

Mr. Hollett I asked for it. If you could not answer it you might have said, "I'm sorry I cannot answer it", but to give a camouflaged answer and use the word ideology, to try to cover up the question and not answer it properly, I don't give anybody much credit for that. The whole idea is not to get any assistance whatever from the government. It starts from a very small nucleus and builds up gradually. If you are going to get the government to come in and spend \$50,000, where is it going to stop and when? If they are going to spend that much why should they not spend \$500,000 or more to put it through? The co-operation Mr. Ashbourne is speaking of is entirely different. We all believe in co-operation, but whether we all believe in the co-operative movement is another thing; but I do believe, according to Dr. Coady, that it is not the way to get a co-operative movement going well in any country, to get assistance from the government or Dr. Grenfell or anyone else.

Mr. Newell I had thought that hitherto we made it plain that co-operative societies are business operations, and are not receiving assistance from the government. That is definite. This \$50,000 is being spent to finance adult education — those who go into a community and offer leadership in formulating study groups.

Mr. Hollett Is it consistent?

Mr. Newell No co-operative society or anybody interested in the co-operative movement is urging that they put any money into individual co-operative societies as a business venture, because it is generally felt it would not be in the best interests of such societies. As to whether the government or the Grenfell Mission should spend money on a field service, which is education which may result in the formation of study clubs, that is a different question and the situation is this: if the government or somebody else did

not sponsor such a movement, the probability is the movement would not get started. Mr. Hollett referred to Dr. Coady; he is connected with the movement in Nova Scotia. St. Francis Xavier College, I understand, sent out men to organise study groups as part of the adult education movement. It was not financed by the government, but it was by somebody. He and all the other people had to eat, they had the elementary human needs, somebody had to pay them. The point is this: if in the beginning you had not had the government mooting the idea, then it possibly might not have been mooted. I agree that the sooner the co-operatives are strong enough to take over educational work, the better — in some places they are strong enough. In the Flowers Cove area they saw fit to withdraw the field workers, so we are going to pay for it ourselves. The people dug into their pockets. That was only after they got a start. Whatever we feel ideally, we have to be practical and admit such assistance is necessary; but certainly not when it applies to a business enterprise being carried on.

Mr. Jackman Up to about half an hour ago I was doubtful if we were getting anywhere as far as the Convention is concerned; but when someone backs up the workingman, we are certainly on the road to responsibility especially when that is done by a Water Street merchant. I am not a co-operative worker, but I feel grateful to the co-operative movement for what it has done for Bell Island. We could not do it on our own. We were not educated in that manner and of course we had to depend on the field workers of the co-operative to put us on the right track. We instituted a credit union within our own union and we did it for the purpose of getting some of our men out of debt, and make them independent. I could quote a few cases of what I consider the co-operative movement did which benefited not only the working class but the employment class as well. We had a man who came to the credit committee to know if it was possible to raise a loan. He was in debt to his merchant in the amount of \$300. His merchant told him if he could pay off the amount he would give him 20% discount. We gave him the money and he received his 20% discount — \$60 — and he has not been in debt since....

Mr. Smallwood I cannot agree with Mr. Hollett when he says the government is giving money to