

section do pass as read.

[The motion carried. The section on coal was read and passed, and the section on copper read.]

The committee then rose and reported progress, and the Convention adjourned]

April 14, 1947

**Report of the Mining Committee:¹
Committee of the Whole**

Mr. Higgins I would suggest that to summarise the paragraph on copper read on Saturday that the table marked Table 1, at the end of the section on copper be read. That will summarise the report.... *[The committee briefly discussed the sections on copper, gold, lead, asbestos, chrome, salt, petroleum, pyrophyllite, limestone, barite, nickel, mica, and marble. The Secretary read the section on cement.]*

Mr. Smallwood When the report of the Local Industries Committee was brought in here, that report quoted a special memorandum prepared for the Committee by the Industrial Development Board, and I was particularly struck at the time by the reference to cement. The Industrial Development Board pointed out what a great pity it was that the two main ingredients necessary to make cement were separated from each other by roughly the width of the country. One was on the eastern side of the country, and the other on the western. The cost of bringing the two together was what caused it to be dropped. Now the Mining Committee brings a different light on the matter. I remember after the remarks I made when the Local Industries Report was being debated I ran into the Mayor of St. John's, who was very enthusiastic about the matter. He told me that the St. John's Municipal Council uses 50,000 bags a year.... That's only one case. If you could get cement in this country at reasonable price there would be thousands of people using it for foundations of their homes and for the erection of buildings of all kinds, with remarkable progress in construction and industry. This is evidently one of the most important sections of this report. It absolutely contradicts the report of the Industrial Development Board.

According to this, in the Port-au-Port area there are very extensive deposits of gypsum, limestone, and silica clay. These are the articles necessary for the manufacture of cement. They are all within a radius of two miles. The only thing

is, you have to import coal to create the heat for dehydrating it, or else use hydro-electric power, and we understand there is sufficient power in that vicinity for this industry. I wonder if Mr. Higgins could tell us if anyone is interested, and if there is any move on foot to start a cement industry, and could he throw a little light on this: "The main question is, of course, whether or not cement could be produced at a cost comparable to the cost of the imported article." What is meant by that? What would be the cost? There would be the cost of mining and bringing them together to the point of the hydro-electric development, etc., all which, surely, should not cost any more, speaking generally, than anywhere else. Labour is certainly no better paid in this country than in Canada, generally speaking, and certainly no better than in the States. You can develop hydro-electric energy in this country as cheaply as anywhere. What are the prospects of making cement? Is there anything doing?

Mr. Higgins I don't know if I can enlighten you more than I have on this matter. The last sentence would be the cost of the finished product, that is the selling price compared to the finished article. With respect to our contradiction of the Local Industries Report, we are satisfied that the information we have given you is correct as far as our information goes....

Mr. Smallwood Why not develop cement out there on a world-wide scale? Why not develop it for export all over the world? In terms of that kind we have to think. I have been watching, looking for possibilities of using up our own raw materials. I know cement is used all over the world. When Mr. Higgins, Major Cashin and I form a government, we must see what we can do with that.

Mr. Bailey I think Mr. Smallwood answered his own question. There is too big a cement plant in Canada and the United States for us to have one.

Mr. Butt If the cost is too high, it is no use

¹Volume II:313.