

don't see the advantage of it.

**Mr. Chairman** Frankly I am at a loss myself to see why it needs two motions to accomplish what may be embodied into one item.

**Mr. Higgins** Well, the moving into the committee of the whole, Mr. Chairman, follows on the receiving of this report, does it not?

**Mr. Chairman** Oh yes, quite.

**Mr. Higgins** This does both together?

**Mr. Chairman** Oh no, no. It says that it is a motion that the report be received, but that on the following day a motion will be made. It presupposes two acts, one the motion to resolve the House into committee is subsequent in point of time by 24 hours to the motion to receive the communication.

**Mr. Higgins** Does that not automatically mean that we go into committee of the whole?

**Mr. Chairman** No.

**Mr. Bradley** I can probably clear the matter up. A motion to receive, of course, is one which we must pass, if for no other reason than as a matter of courtesy, not only to a friendly nation, but a member of our own Commonwealth. The motion to refer to a committee tomorrow merely puts it

on the order paper for tomorrow. But I want it to be clearly understood by any member of this Convention who does not so understand it, that it is not my intention to continue or to begin any debate upon these terms which have come down from Canada until we have finished the debate on the report which we are now considering, and in the ordinary course of parliamentary procedure on each day I shall move in the proper time that the order for referring this matter to a committee of the whole house be deferred from day to day. I shall do that until this Economic Report has been completed.

**Mr. Chairman** That should be clear and satisfactory.

**Mr. Higgins** I have no objection to the report being received at the present time. That was not my intention.

**Mr. Chairman** I understand that. Are you satisfied now?

**Mr. Higgins** Provided it is understood that it is merely to receive this report.

**Mr. Chairman** I will put your minds at rest by assuring you that it is my intention to rule to that effect now....

#### Report of the Finance Committee: Economic Report<sup>1</sup> Committee of the Whole

**Mr. Harrington** In speaking to the Economic Report, I will say at the outset that I am by nature somewhat of a pessimist.... However, I have never descended to such depths of despair as certain delegates of this Convention have in recent days, notably the delegates from Bonavista. I'm sure too that there are a great many people in their districts who have much more hope for tomorrow than their representatives here would tend to suggest.

But enough of that. At last we have before us the report on the economic position of Newfoundland. It is a good report, completed in a comparatively short time — two weeks — and it is also a satisfying report, in the conclusions that it draws and the evidence that it supplies to support these conclusions. As was to be expected, the Jeremiahs and the Doubting Thomases have been having their say, searching its pages to find loopholes through which to shoot the arrows of their pessimism and scorn, which tend to discredit the reasonably favourable forecast which

the compilers of the report have made.

I say "reasonably favourable", for that's what it is. I think too it is a realistic canvas they have painted. I don't think it is over-optimistic. I don't think it deserves such sweeping denunciations as came from one delegate, who went to the extreme point of stating the report was not worth the paper it was printed on. I expect by now, however, most of the country realises that the delegate from Bonavista Centre is merely keeping in character.

**Mr. Smallwood** Point of order. I would like Mr. Harrington to explain exactly what he means by that, or withdraw the remark.

**Mr. Harrington** I mean that you have, since this Convention started, been making what you referred to the other day as a "poor mouth", and you never failed in making a "poor mouth", and you did not fail to do it on Tuesday. Does that satisfy you?

**Mr. Smallwood** No.

**Mr. Harrington** Well, it will have to do so for now.

<sup>1</sup>Volume II:425.