

value of these local industries. I understood it was impossible to get these figures from the different companies, but does the convenor of the Local Industries Committee think it would be possible to get them from the Finance Department in the aggregate amount? Do you think they would give you the aggregate amount of the corporation taxes that are paid?

**Mr. Hickman** The Assessor of Taxes could be asked if they would give us the total figure paid.

**Mr. MacDonald** That's it. I could see where the companies don't want to make a public acknowledgement. I would not. But I think it is due to this Convention to know the amount that these 35 companies have paid in as a whole. Considering the value of the local industries to the country as a whole I think it is a most important thing. There is no way of averaging or considering what it might be for any one concern, and it would not give away any of the business secrets of these concerns if we got the total amount.

In looking over this list I see there are three concerns that export some of their products, to the amount of \$133,000. Would the convenor of the Local Industries Committee say that it is possible to manufacture in this country and export?

**Mr. Hickman** That might be possible in certain cases, but I would not be able to give a general answer. There are some items that could be exported. For example in this report here, one export is margarine. I imagine that is what went to St. Pierre. There must be items that can be exported. There has been such a demand locally in the last few years and such a shortage of imported goods that I don't think we could touch the export market.

**Mr. MacDonald** I was thinking of the old country, they are like ourselves, they must export or perish. That country lives purely on industry, and most of them are conducted by importing raw materials. They have very little of their own, but everything is imported, manufactured and then exported to other countries and compete with those from which they imported the raw materials. How do they do it, and can it be done here?

**Mr. Smallwood** The other name for Great Britain is "the workshop of the world". She imports raw materials in hundreds of steamer loads, fabricates them in vast mills and factories and then exports the finished products. She has the

greatest merchant marine in the world. There is a great difference in that and a little country of 300,000 people importing for local consumption alone.

**Mr. Ashbourne** Regarding the export of margarine, I presume that is not allowed today. Certainly we are not allowing that to go out of the country now with our imports cut by 15%?

**Mr. Hickman** I don't know, these figures are back in 1945.

**Mr. Ashbourne** I notice that \$2,400 worth of brick was exported. It might be capable of expansion. These bricks are in great demand today, because it is quite a job to get galvanised iron to make stovepipes, and we are very fortunate in being able to make brick in Newfoundland. I would also like to have seen some reference to the matter of plastics. As I understand it, that's quite an important industry, particularly in those countries that have large forests, and I hope that Newfoundland will be able to do something in this regard, and also in the matter of pottery.... Perhaps when the investigation that's going to take place shortly materialises, many of these industries will be brought into a flourishing condition. We would have more industries if we had more coal. If we had the coal we could manufacture some of our own iron ore.

**Mr. Harrington** There are a few general observations I would like to make on several of the matters referred to in the report or inferred during the debate. In leading off, I would refer to a statement which I made in a radio broadcast during the short election campaign that preceded the election in June last. In speaking of the purpose of the Convention, I said: "You are not electing a government; you are not electing members to the House of Assembly who will repair the public wharf or fix the highroad through the settlement; or see that new industries are created in the West End of St. John's before they are started in the East End. That is not the purpose of the National Convention — that is the job of the government which will take over when the National Convention is history...." Some weeks ago too, in a Christmas message to the people of St. John's West, I said I did not intend to apologise for the debates that had taken place in the Convention, which in some quarters have been criticised as irrelevant and inclined to wander. I make no apology now, and you may be entitled