

considered the cost of such a ferry? The new one which has just been launched to serve Prince Edward Island is costing \$5 million. To accommodate that boat they have got to spend \$6 million to enlarge the terminal facilities at each end of the run.... At a rough guess, to get the new equipment and the ferry on the Gulf, it will run up to \$50 million. That, I am afraid, is a little too rich for our blood. I appreciate Mr. Harrington's interest, but I wish to assure him that that is a matter which the Transportation Committee did investigate.

Mr. Ashbourne I would like to correct what I said regarding the express train at Lewisporte, that this year passengers had to leave the express. That should have been last year, not 1947, because at the present time the train from Lewisporte does meet all the expresses that come through. But last spring, (1946) and early in the summer, the train from Lewisporte only met certain expresses.

There is another point, and it is that when the railway was built out there, Norris Arm was supposed to be the water point, so to speak, and that's why the railroad was brought out to Norris Arm, but had people had the vision at that time to see the great port of Lewisporte as it is today, I think these men would have put the main line right out to Lewisporte, and I believe it could have been done at very little cost, and it would be a great convenience to the travelling people.... I feel very strongly in advocating that the Railway management seriously consider the matter of putting Lewisporte on the main line.

Mr. Bailey I have been handicapped the past few days with a cold, and have not been able to take part in the discussion, but I have been listening attentively when I could. I have heard the description of conditions throughout the island, and would like to have something to say about the way things have been handled in general. I don't think anybody has been treated worse than the people who belong to the district (Trinity South) which I come from. When you have had things and had them taken away from you, it hurts a lot more.

I am glad that Mr. Vincent has seen his way to make that speech about the Commission of Government. When he made his earlier speech, I don't think there was anybody I felt like shaking

more than Mr. Vincent. Ever since I came back to this country I have been like the Irishman, "agin it", and as time goes on I am more against it. I don't believe that we have got a fair representation. We had a royal commission come out here¹, I was not in the country at that time, and it harked back to our old responsible government, but that government gave us, where I come from, a wharf at New Chelsea that must have cost \$8,000; a wharf at Hant's Harbour, and you have got to take a mark to find where that was today; at Winterton there was a wharf, and at New Perlican; and at Heart's Content we had a wharf that cost \$80,000, and a 12,000 ton ship could load at it. From Heart's Content to Whitbourne we had a railroad that cost the country, the old "irresponsible" political parties, \$1 million, and it gave good service. It got to a situation where they could not find \$200,000 to ballast the track and put it back again. I was one of the committee that was fighting the government to hold the railroad to Heart's Content. They said they had to put the rails somewhere else in the country, but I found out that \$350,000 was spent to build sheds in St. John's. Now we work with committees, and find out that it cost \$500,000 dollars to put a road where there was a good road, between St. John's and Woodstock. When you consider the money that responsible government spent and the money that Commission of Government is spending, you begin to wonder what it is all about. I am sure that one of the other ideas of the home government, was that they would relieve the depression in Newfoundland by building railroads. They quit building roads, at a cost of 15 or 20 cents an hour, because the cost was prohibitive; surely they don't expect us to build roads now when the British government would not build them in 1938 because they were too costly.

When the cost of living came up here today I could not help admiring Mr. Fudge when he spoke. I am sure Mr. Figary was right there on the spot with the railroad men, but I did not see anybody get up and say anything about John the fisherman. I don't know what is expected of the men today who catch fish. You hear talk about the cost of living, but I know men who went on the Labrador last summer and after they paid their company account (the lowest was about \$270 and the highest \$360) they had to live out of that.

¹*Newfoundland Royal Commission 1933, Report (Cmd. 4480, 1933).*