

voting for this motion, but that he would not vote for either of them if they went on the ballot paper". Well, assuming that the two of them would be on and the other is left off, Mr. Smallwood is going to be in an awful position, unless he has the inside dope from the Dominions Office. He might have that, because you know how I feel about the Dominions Office. I say now about this ballot that I said is tucked away in the rolltop desk, what a pity that individual did not send it on to us 12 or 14 months ago, and save us the trouble and expense of this long drawn out Convention. However, let us hope that we have gotten some benefit out of these sessions. Now in making that statement, much as I have condemned this Convention, and I have called it everything, I think there has been some good come out of it. One thing came out of it, we as members of this National Convention, from various sections of the country, have met here together and we have made warm friendships which I feel will last for life. Some of us who have not had any parliamentary experience have learned considerably about it, and a lot about government affairs, which without this Convention they would never have learned, and consequently I feel that is one bit of good the Convention has probably done.

**Mr. Smallwood** And the people, too.

**Mr. Cashin** And the people have been informed, Mr. Chairman, as I said this afternoon, by me, that this government which Mr. Smallwood said was honest, I claim was the most dishonest government we ever had, and I want to tell the people and the Convention that now.

**Mr. Chairman** You have eight minutes to go, Mr. Cashin.

**Mr. Cashin** All right, sir. I have often heard "two minutes to go", and my friend Mr. Bailey often heard that too. If we have succeeded in showing our people that Newfoundland is today a prosperous and self-supporting country, if we have brought to their notice the great potential wealth of Labrador, if it has enabled us to remove some of the smear campaign which has been directed on our public men of the past, then I believe to that extent the work will not have been in vain. I have every confidence that a majority of this Convention will vote for the motion now before the Chair. Perhaps some of those who vote for it may do so for reasons of political strategy

rather than because they favour either responsible government or Commission of Government; but I am sure that the great majority will vote for the motion because they feel it is the only way open to them to show their support to the form of government which the majority of our people want.

Now sir, for a few minutes I will just refer briefly to our Economic Report, which was based on every report that was brought in here during the past 14 or 15 months, our Economic Report which says that this country at the present time is self-supporting. That report was unanimously adopted by this Convention — the only report that was adopted unanimously. When we presented our Economic Report, we were most conservative in our views. We felt that the future of Newfoundland is better really than we could take the chance of telling the people; they would think we were faking the report. We did not take into consideration the potential wealth of Labrador, that in Labrador, within five or ten years, there will be developed the most outstanding iron ore mines in the world, on the North American continent at any rate. Nearly 10 million tons of iron ore, or possibly 100 million tons a year. I also wish to point out to Mr. Smallwood, who tells us the Commission government was so honest, they gave away this water-power on the Labrador practically for nothing.

**Mr. Smallwood** I did not say they were bright and intelligent.

**Mr. Cashin** I say they are dishonest. I still say it. They must be fools. Here we have the greatest water-power, and the Commission of Government, prompted by the Dominions Office, gives it away for 15 cents a horsepower and right alongside in Quebec, they have to pay \$1 a horsepower. Honest? I do not think they are fools. I challenge anyone from the Dominions Office to show me they are honest in handling the sinking fund, honest in the handling of the interest-free loans; honest about the reduction in interest charges; honest in applying the interest-free loans in the reduction of our debt. Why, it is the biggest piece of plundering I ever heard of! If an ordinary Newfoundland government pulled off any stunts like the Commission government did — talk about the raid which happened in 1932! You would never hear the like. You do not see the same people marching on the Colonial Building