

Report on the Financial and Economic Position of Newfoundland¹

Mr. Job I wish to make the following remarks on the subject of this Chadwick and Jones report, which perhaps for short I may call the white paper. I hope there will be many other opportunities of referring to it, and on this assumption I do not intend to speak at length on it today. It has been prepared from our own government department records, with a view to giving us a preliminary picture of the economic position of Newfoundland. This document, in my opinion, is a definite contribution to our efforts and cannot be lightly brushed aside. I believe that a careful study of it will help the delegates to get some sort of a picture of the government's economic position, but it is far from providing all the information we will require. A careful study of that excellent review entitled *Newfoundland. Economic, Diplomatic and Strategic Studies*, edited by R.A. MacKay, of which a copy has been furnished to every delegate, will give us a still clearer picture. I wish today to briefly call attention to two short sentences in this white paper, one of which on page 9 reads as follows: "The long term prosperity of the Island ultimately depends on a flourishing export trade." The other on page 21 reads: "Certain industries run by outside concerns bring into the country only sufficient money to run their operations, but the great bulk of earnings from the sale of fish is ploughed back into the economy."

I have emphasised, and will take every opportunity of again emphasising, that the happy state of affairs declared to be so vital and desirable by those two bright young delegates, Mr. Newell and Mr. Keough in their admirable addresses, will never be achieved unless and until we are assured of a more stable and profitable market for our fishery products of all sorts than has existed in the past. Such a market will be available only if we take advantage of our strategic position to negotiate tariff arrangements with the mother country, with Canada and with the United States of America, and the sooner some government with solid backing can get under way with these negotiations the better. There is very shortly going to be held an international trade convention for the purpose of discussing trade relations and tariffs, at which a delegate or delegates appointed by the Newfoundland Commission of Govern-

ment will be present. Newfoundland's case for special consideration so far as trade and tariff relations with the United Kingdom, Canada and with the United States of America are concerned, should be based not only upon the question of reciprocity on tariff concessions, but also upon the fact that these three countries will be utilising our strategic position for the safety of their millions of people.

This country has never received anything, except the temporary benefit of certain expenditures during the war, which were necessary for the safety of these millions of people, in return for the 99-year leases of Newfoundland territory granted to the United States, and the special airport facilities granted to Canada. We do not want to be subsidised by outside people to enable us to maintain that fair standard of living to which reference has been made, but we do want to be assisted by tariff arrangements. It is useless to develop our production of fish products without assurance of a profitable market. I make these present remarks on account of the urgency existing, to impress upon those who will be responsible for the appointment of delegates to this forthcoming international trade convention, of not overlooking our grounds for special consideration. We shall want the full weight of this Convention and of our people behind this idea if anything is to be accomplished quickly.

Before closing, Mr. Chairman, I would like to support most strongly the views and patriotic sentiments so eloquently expressed by Mr. Smallwood and also by Mr. Ken Brown upon the remarks of Major Cashin on introducing his motion for receipt of this white paper. His address was more or less a repetition of some made over the radio for months prior to the Convention, and I fancy that they amused a great many people and perhaps even were helpful in arousing public interests in the political situation, but it was not the kind of address that should have been delivered at this Convention, and I fancy that every delegate here will agree with this viewpoint and resent the subtle insinuations made.

Mr. Vincent Mr. Chairman, in speaking to the motion before the Convention I did so, in the words of Mr. Keough, "possessed with a deep conviction that this is a vital moment in the annals

¹Volume II:16.