

the returns. We saw the crowds of tourists in the country this year, even though no preparations had been made for their accommodation. We have seen all during the war years the potential visitors we will have, even if members of the forces and their relatives only came here once. All that goodwill that has been built up is in grave jeopardy by a government which, rightly or wrongly, is pursuing a most extraordinary policy. I have criticised Major Cashin in this House earlier in the debates about remarks made about this government. I am beginning to wonder if he is not right and I am wrong. Because the attitude of this government today is utterly incomprehensible; and your report, Mr. Smallwood, is the same thing. All we have to do is look at the correspondence between the Tourist Board and the Commissioner for Public Utilities leading up to the resignation, the most discourteous treatment any body of citizens was ever handed in this country by any government. It is hard to realise that in the Commission of Government are three Newfoundlanders who subscribed to the letters shown in this correspondence.

The correspondence began September, 1945, urging on the government the necessity of taking action about the tourist policy. After a lot of cajoling they finally agreed to have two experts, one at a time — the Mathes agency was the first one, they came down and made a survey in 1945, and they made their report.¹ On page 1 you will note: "Has Newfoundland a tourism potential worth developing? Our answer is most emphatically YES." They give reasons why. You have the report of Oliver² who comes back in his report this year entirely agreeing with the Mathes agency. On page 1 Oliver says, "Newfoundland has a very considerable tourist potential, and there should be no doubt of that. I have not attempted to detail it, because Mathes' presentation to your Board has already done so in comprehensive fashion." These two reports were all any government should need to be quite certain they were on the right track. They had their own Board's recommendation for years before that; their constant urging on the government for action; and

then to bolster that position that had these two agencies make these very valuable reports. And what do they do? All we have to do is refer ourselves to the correspondence and we will see the most discourteous letter ever written by a government department to a semi-government agency, and written to nine men who comprise this Tourist Board — nine unpaid citizens who have given, some of them, 20 odd years of service to the country. Their names alone will tell you who they are and what their work means: W.A. Reid, J.F. Meehan, J.W. Allan, C.E.A. Jeffrey, A.B. Perlin, Leonard C. Outerbridge, Cyril Duley, A.W. Bentley. And, I believe, Herbert Russell, who did not sign the letter because he is an employee of the government and could not very well do so. They write the Commissioner for Public Utilities urging the implementing of these reports. The various letters show how they went about it. Mr. Reid wrote on 6 June to J.S. Neill, the Commissioner, and I want to read part of it:

With reference to the report on the tourist possibilities of Newfoundland, made by Mr. Douglas R. Oliver of Toronto, copy of which was forwarded to you on April 16th, I have to inform you that the Board has given careful consideration to this report, and considers it to be a sound and conservative appreciation of the situation, and is generally in accord with the recommendations and suggestions contained therein. If you will refer to my letter to the Hon. Sir George London of September 19, 1945, copy of which is enclosed, which sets forth very clearly the Board's views regarding what steps should be taken in this matter, you will see that the strong recommendation was made that immediate steps be taken to procure from the Canadian National Railways or some like source, the services of a thoroughly trained and competent executive from their tourist department. This man should come here without delay to study the situation and to make recommendations to the government as to the best form of organization which should set up for the development of the tourist

¹J.M. Mathes, *Tourism Potential in Newfoundland; an Investigation carried out by J.M. Mathes Inc.* (New York, 1945). This survey was made on the request of the Nfld. Tourist Development Board. Volume II:140.

²Douglas R. Oliver, *A Report on Newfoundland's Tourist Trade Position* (Toronto, 1946). Volume II:128.